

**Every animal
leaves a trace of
what it was.**

**Only man leaves
a trace of what
he/she has
created!**



Introduction

The discourse on Biotechnology is too limited:

It does not include enough representation of the 'lived world'

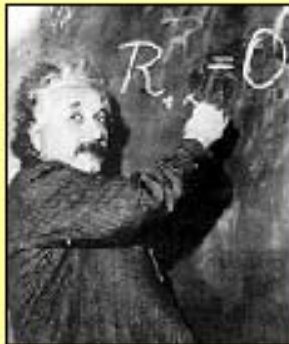
- **It is not inclusive enough.**
- **It is not contextual in time.**

Stating the obvious tentatively!

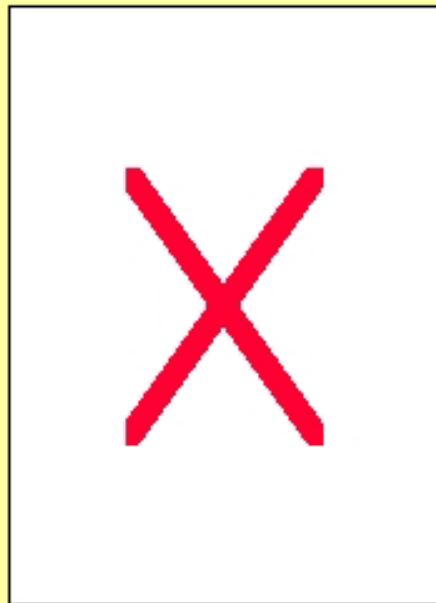
- **Is confidence appropriate?**
- **Is concern appropriate?**

YES

Every society values its myths because they are a way of explaining things that are accessible to the majority



**Geneticists and sinners as
abominations before God!**



**“God’s order”
eventually becomes a
theological argument,
not a genetic one!
The arrogance of
playing ‘god’ remains
an ethical argument
God has created a
perfect, natural order,
and to interfere with it
is blasphemous**

Nature as higher authority



Nature is valuable and good, in and of itself

Staphylococcus is good;

synthetic antibiotic is bad

**What is annoying is not
necessarily unethical!**

**Modern technology – including biotechnology –
is disrespectful of the environment**

An argument can be made against genetic technology: it may not be wise because we are dealing with a systemic complexity that we cannot possibly comprehend

Risk and Ethics

**Determining what possible benefits justify
a possible risk is problematic**

Issues are:

- **Probability**
- **Responsibility**
- **Justifiability**

**The harmful effects of biotechnology
remain largely speculative.**

**Excessive caution does not remove the
risk of future catastrophes.**

What may go wrong?

- **Collateral effects**
- **Monopoly**
- **Widening of the gap
between the developed and
underdeveloped world**

Conclusions

- **Obscene haste or greed in marketing.**
- **Increased food production.**
- **The arguments are egocentric rather than foundational.**
- **We cannot comprehend the interconnected complexity.**

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