

Culture and Genes

Culture

Every distinct culture has its own set of elements and norms. Some of these might be said to be “good” or “bad”. This judgement is not about “correct” or “incorrect” but is about “right” and “wrong” and therefore is based upon concepts of ethics and morals.

A local resultant set of such standards are generally codified in some form of legal definition. These are the laws that the local individual (or visitor) must abide by or suffer the specified consequences. A case in point is the generally accepted standard that produced laws in the US against taking the life of another with advanced malice of forethought; that is, premeditated murder.

Yet in some cultures, though it is against the law, a family may take the life of a member whose words and/or actions have brought shame upon the family. This is commonly known as “honor killing”. This practice, though against the law, is not generally treated as a crime in countries where this tradition originated.

This is the type of cultural element that is a two-edged sword; it is good to have high personal standards taught and lived by the members. But it is not good to kill a member who does not live up to those standards. Most cultural contexts have this same type of issue with “two-edged swords” and outright negative elements. But they each also might have positive elements.

As the individual cultures of the world continue to mix by whatever means, the hope is that the negative elements will be recognized for what they are and are dispensed with. At the same time perhaps, the good elements would be strengthened by consistent community practice. Thus, the mixing of cultures might work toward peace.

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Genetics

I would think it is well known that “inbreeding” can lead to serious problems with succeeding generations. Mutations in the form of “birth defects” are more likely if the biological parents are closely related in genetic heritage.

Mixing ethnically and racially provides more “distance” between the two genetic sources. Thus, the prospect of negative birth defects, which might otherwise present in births from those with close parentage, is not as likely. Perhaps, in time, other recessive anomalous traits, that could bring positive changes, might still occur, possibly leading to mutative enhancements. That is, maybe we will evolve into something “better”?

Shaken not stirred

Too much of the genetic and cultural shifting has been as the result of violence or the threat thereof. That is, we have been genetic and cultural shaken and not stirred. It is passed time to start gently and lovely stirring humanity to a better reality.

This is probably not the best use of Mendel’s work or that of the masters of sociology, but I feel confident that, if we could continue to move in the direction of mixing racially and genetically, humanity would be much better off in the long run. In a way I am talking about concepts espoused by such luminaries as John Winston Lennon, Rangimārie Te Turuki Arikirangi Rose Pere CBE, or the Dalai Lama. Though one might not agree with the “spiritual” aims of these at the very least one could agree that working together for the benefit of all and treating each other with dignity and courtesy, would have a greater prospect of bringing about peace and contentment for each rather than being at enmity with each other.

I will leave to the reader the task of researching any details. It is up to you to find the references which might prove or disprove my hypothesis.