

June 30, 1970

Dear Rabbi Lamm

Last night I picked up a book, "The Making of Kubrick's 2001", On page 55 I found an article about you concerning your beliefs on extra-terrestrial life.

I agree with many of the points you put forth. However, one paragraph does not strike me as well thought out. I quote.....

One of our great difficulties is: who is to say that the physician, or the scientist, or anyone who has a Ph.D. and is in control of certain processes, has the right to determine the future, of anything's or anyones, life and death. Man is monkeying around with his environment. He is monkeying around with himself as well. He is changing himself.

True; man is monkeying around with himself and his environment, causing himself to be strangled by his own mass produced poisons spewing themselves out day and night into our life-supporting atmosphere. True; man should not have the right of decision of life or death, over any living entity. However, he should have the right to "monkey" around with himself. This right is what started all the religions in the world. If Abraham did not have the right to change his religion and believe in the one and only G_d, where would the Jewish People be today? If Moses did not fear G_d, and had less fear of the Pharaoh, he would have decided to allow someone else to take his place as the leader of the Jews from slavery.

Today, Man has to change his environment, for, his environment is out to destroy him. He lives surrounded by madness. Surrounded by a spiritually poor desolate population, striving only, for the god money. He lives surrounded by hate and fear. If he is not to change this, man as a race has a poor chance of survival.

Many, criticize today's youth, saying they are too free, and immoral. This may be true in a relative way. For, these same parents were too strongly controlled by their parents. They were taught unnatural hates and prejudices, they were taught that the goal of ones self was to make it in a large one-family house and have a comfortable living. After having achieved this, they could sit in their palacial home and swiftly rot away into a state of mental and social atrophy.

Many of todays youth have run to the opposite field, they are trying to make a better world. Some of them not having the mental capacity have run to the fantasy world of drugs to escape, what they feel are rotten surroundings. Others, have involved themselves into a revolutionary way, so that the world may be changed in the near future. Both are mistaken, unfortunately, for their actions causes the last generation to have fears, defeating their purpose.

However, some are seeking and finding, to my eyes the right way. They have removed ~~xxx~~ themselves from their comfortable environments and have merged into the life styles of the socially and monetarily poor people. They come with their education, and their college degrees and try to teach the poor people of the Southwest new ways to live.'

Some, with agricultural knowledge, are making great strides with the people in New Mexico, giving them a chance to live above the starvation level. This is a form of compassion, which helps the world become a safer place to live in.

Other, are disenfranchising themselves from the world of the machine and are forming small bastions of preservation, of the world's lost art of handcrafting, preserving many bits of beauty and spiritually uplifting forms of art, thought lost to us.

If this in your consideration is "monkeying" around, let all the Ph.D.s, go "ape" Let them grovel and find a new way of living.

Hoping to hear from you soon, and wishing you a well and enjoyable summer.

I remain,
Yours,

Saul Handle5.