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those who want to understand other cultures, and those who are involved in politics—the running of our people—all must utilize philosophical thought in some way or another. For if one wants to understand a completely foreign culture, what better way than to attempt to understand that culture's deepest level of thinking on the most fundamental questions of mankind? Politics, furthermore, is a direct application of philosophical thought. The most fundamental question in all of ancient Chinese philosophy is "What should be done?" This, of course, is directly implying the question "How should our society function?" Without considering philosophical questions like these, politicians would have no well-reasoned viewpoints. Moreover, by studying the deepest questions of the west or the east (What is real versus what should be done), we are able to recognize what is valued in certain cultures—at the most fundamental level possible.

But we must understand that it is not just those involved in foreign and political affairs that should have an understanding of philosophy. Ethics, as a branch of philosophical study, is something we consider daily. Every moral dilemma (Should the death penalty exist? Do we have the right to invade another country if we feel that their people are being treated unfairly?) is a matter of ethics. Religion, moreover, is philosophical theory by definition. The purpose of religion is to provide theses for what (if anything) created the world, as well as how we should act, worship, and live our lives. Anyone who practices and truly thinks about his/her religion is thinking philosophically. How, given these examples, can one claim that "Philosophy just IS NOT for me"? For by developing viewpoints on ethical, societal, religious, or existential issues, one is "doing philosophy." It is safe to say, then, that everyone "does philosophy"—simply by thinking! There is no way of avoiding thinking about the issues that surround us. We, as society, should embrace this deep level of thought, rather than attach a stigma to those who study it at the most extensive level.

To Clone or not to Clone?

Sara Honickman



"Hi Barbara. I don't know what to do! I so want a child but I have no marriage prospects and I don't want to involve a man unless he is willing to make a long-term commitment to me and the baby."

"Well, Pam, why don't you just adopt a baby that needs a home?"

"I guess I could do that, but I was really hoping to raise a child genetically related to me."

"Have you considered cloning? It is now possible to take the nucleus from one of your somatic cells and transplant it into a denucleated egg. The embryo would have a genome identical to your own, and you could carry the baby."

"Are you kidding me? That's totally unethical!"

"Why?"

"It's too dangerous! There would be far too many failures. It took over 400 tries to clone Dolly, and she's just a sheep. You cannot risk human life that way."

"But, the embryos are not persons. They are made in laboratories and do not have a proper environment to become persons until they are implanted. All the embryos would be screened before implantation and only the healthiest of the cells would actually make it to a uterus. Plus, every scientific breakthrough starts with a few failures."