

The Book of Adam

Autobiography of the First Human Clone

* Study Guide *

Cloning:

What are the pros and cons of human cloning?

What do you think of Sarah's decision to give birth to the clone of her father?

What are the differences, philosophically and physically, between human cloning and naturally occurring identical twins?

Do you think that cloning should be a legal option if the number and severity of birth defects were in line with naturally conceived children? Why or why not?

Assuming no increase in birth defects, under which of the following circumstances do you think humans should have the right to have themselves cloned:

- Never
- For any reason
- As another fertility option if a couple or single person is unable to reproduce naturally
- If there is a miscarriage, should the DNA of the fetus be able to be cloned?
- Should it be legally permissible for a murdered or dying child to be cloned?
- Should a person be able to have himself/herself cloned while still alive?
- Should a person be able to have himself/herself cloned after death?
- Should a person be able to have multiple clones of oneself born under any circumstance?

How should financial inheritance be handled in a world where human cloning is legal? If a person is dying and was legally able to have himself/herself cloned after death, should that person be able to leave anything, or everything, to his/her future clone?

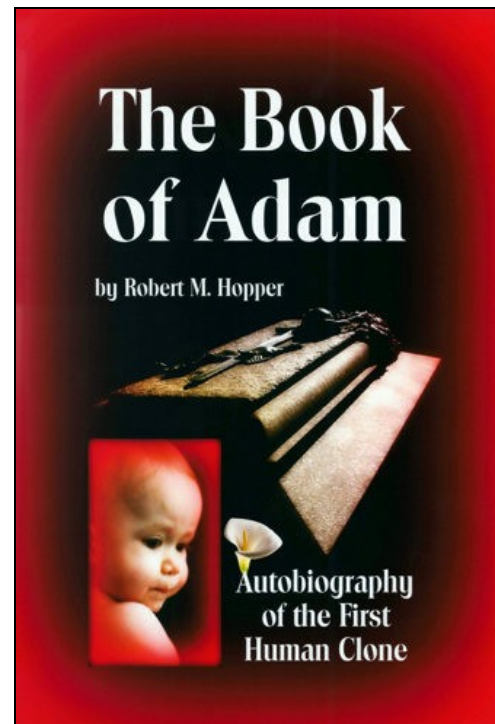
Should cloning of pets be legal? Can you envision a circumstance in which you might have a pet cloned?

Should any extinct animals be brought back into existence through cloning?

What are the religious repercussions of human cloning?

What would be the societal costs and/or benefits of human cloning?

Would you feel any differently about your life if you learned that you were the genetic clone of someone who had been born before? If so, why, and how would you feel differently? Would you regret being born?



Radical Life Extension & Artificial Bodies:

What body parts would you have doctors replace in order to keep you alive?

What body parts wouldn't you have replaced in order to keep you alive?

Would you choose to have your brain transplanted into a completely artificial body to stay alive? Why or why not?

Do you think people should be legally able to put their mind into an artificial body whether or not it was medically necessary?

Should any of our artificial exterior body parts be allowed to look radically different than our original bodies appeared? Is there any limit to how radically different we should alter our bodies? Why or why not?

If your natural brain was failing and could be duplicated with an artificial brain that appeared to remember things and think just like your original brain, would you have your brain duplicated? Why or why not?

If a person's brain is copied into an artificial structure and the natural brain died, does the new artificial brain still have a soul, or is that original person dead?

Can artificial intelligence that appears to demonstrate all the abilities of a human brain ever be considered to be alive or have any rights, freedoms, and protections? If so, which rights, freedoms, and/or protections?

What would be the religious repercussions of artificial bodies?

What would be the societal costs and/or benefits of radical life extension?

How long should "lifetime appointments" serve if humans began having a lifespan of centuries or longer?

Should people serving life sentences in prison be allowed radical life extension treatments?

Should people on death row be allowed radical life extension treatments?

If you support the death penalty now, would you still support it if we could keep humans alive for millennia? Would you still support it if, in the future, doctors could modify the brain with drugs or therapy to eliminate murderous tendencies? Why or why not?

Should the government help fund procedures that will radically extend life and reduce sickness? Why or why not?

If we can modify our genes to make us more intelligent, attractive, industrious, less violent, etc., should we do it?

Do you think a gulf would widen between humans who were genetically enhanced and those who weren't? Do you think society as a whole would benefit or be damaged by such a situation, and why?

Would you feel less human if you were only able to live with your brain supported in an artificial body? What if just everything below your neck was artificial? Or only your limbs were artificial? Or if just your face and skull were artificial?

Cryonics:

If doctors were able to freeze your body with a reasonable expectation of bringing you back to life with your mind intact, would you have them perform that medical procedure on you? Why or why not?

If not, are there any circumstances in which you might agree? If, for instance, you were traveling and needed to be frozen to preserve you long enough to transfer you to a hospital that had the technology to save you?

What are the religious repercussions of successful cryonic treatments?

What would be the societal costs and/or benefits of successful cryonic treatments?

What should happen to a murderer if the person he/she killed was frozen and later able to be brought back to life?

What should happen to a person's belongings if the person is frozen with the chance of being brought back to life? Should the person be able to keep everything/anything in his/her possession for that possible rejuvenation?

If a person is brought back from cryonic freeze, what do you think happened to his/her soul during the freeze?

If a person brought back from cryonic freeze claimed to have cryonic visions, when would you suspect those visions took place: As they originally died, as they were being brought back to life, or in the interim when they were frozen and clinically dead with no brain activity?

How do you think it would affect you to know that you had been dead and frozen for a long period of time?