

RIGHTS : ACQUIRED , NOT INBORN

Rights are not inborn together with genetically determined abilities or infirmities. Rights are acquired either by individual struggle or by being bestowed upon an individual by his family or his society. But rights can also be withdrawn or voluntarily relinquished.

Children are nowadays regarded as having certain rights, such as the rights to play, to receive an education, be nourished, etc. Some such rights were denied children at the time of Charles Dickens.

Animals have been accorded a few rights, notably the ~~right of not~~ being treated cruelly. As in the case of children, it is adults who have bestowed such rights.

Rights can also be withdrawn. For instance, in older times individuals had the right to do justice by their own hand, to and even to murder and steal. Such rights have been cut off in all civilized societies and even earlier. A right that is still

in dispute is the right to procreate regardless of the possibility of assuming a livelihood and education. It can be argued that people who have ~~into~~ grave inheritable defects, or who cannot afford to bring up ~~the~~ children by their own effort, have no right to procreate. Unfortunately ~~it~~ eugenics was practiced by Nazism, and thus has got a bad name. But nothing short of eugenics, if possible voluntary, will save mankind from the ~~the~~ genetic deterioration it is condemned to because (a) individual civilization incurs mutations, and not mutations or deletions, and (b) civilized societies protect the biologically unfit.