

CHALLENGING NATURE: BIOTECHNOLOGY HAS GREAT IMPACT ON HUMAN BEINGS (Presented by Yu Gwo-hsing,)

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In the book *Challenging Nature*, the author L. M. Silver proposes two arguments. Firstly, people over the past hundred years could never expect the great progress of our modern technology as we cannot foresee the future, so we do not have to worry and control the development of technology. Secondly, from the angle of ethics, the author considers that as long as the things are helpful to human health and the quality of life, people should develop these things without reserve.

In Silver's opinion, religion and science has always been in the confronting positions in the West. Since the followers of the Western religion believe that all things on earth are God's creation, they see biotechnology as the human attempt to replace God, which would only make the world disordered, because if human beings can play the role of God, there would be nothing to control these people. On the other hand, there is no such religious burden in the East because the Eastern people esteem that life is cyclical and can exist through all kinds of forms. Hence the impact of life science on the East is not so strong than that in the West. (~ Shu-chun Yen )