

“ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE”

(While on vacation, I viewed, once again, one of my favorite movies. If you haven't seen it, I would encourage a trip to Blockbuster or Hollywood Video.)

“Please. Please. Make me real. Make me a real boy. Please make me real!” David, a modern day Pinocchio, cries out to the Blue Fairy.

David is a mecha, created by humans. David is artificial intelligence - A.I. He is created with the ability to love and to bond to a “mommy.” He is the nearest thing to a human being yet created.

At the very outset of “A.I.”, the movie by Steven Spielberg, we are reminded that this is a morality play. It is about the moral implications of scientific discoveries, research and development.

In a sense, we have become “like the gods.” Gifted with intelligence and reason, we join the Creator in creating. But what to create and for what purpose becomes the dilemma.

Creating embryos in the laboratory specifically for the purpose of being used for stem cell research to help those with debilitating diseases like Alzheimer's is only one of hundreds of arenas in which science and ethics meet face to face. The questions of science are more and more becoming religious and ethical questions.

Joe, the gigolo, a mecha man created for the sole purpose of giving women physical pleasure, reminds David, the mecha boy, that human beings are the only creatures with the ability to believe in things that cannot be seen or measured.

We have been gifted with consciousness, once described as “the universe reflecting upon itself.” As we reflect upon this mystery of the universe, the ultimate question of life moves from “Can we?” to “Should we?”

As we struggle with that question, we do so in the knowledge that life is Mystery and that what we ultimately seek is love and acceptance within that Mystery. We yearn for salvation—to be accepted and loved by those we can see and by the One who is invisible, the One Who is Beyond the Universe.

As the mecha boy, David, becomes more and more human, his only desire is to be accepted and loved by his “mommy.” His “everlasting moment” comes when he hears the words, “I love you.”

Don't we become real and alive and find our “everlasting moment” when we hear the words of another to us, “I love you”?

Ultimately, David, the mecha boy, becomes human when for the first time in his life, he went to “the place where dreams are born.”

To be human means to be finite, to desire to become real, to yearn for love and acceptance from the One and from the many and to choose to go to the place where dreams are born.

In Jesus, the Christ, we hear a message of love and acceptance from the “One” and a challenge to live the Mystery of life with care and concern for the other and, when the time comes, to move on with trust to “the place where dreams are born.”

It will make your brain hurt, but I would encourage you to see “A.I.”

F. Mike