

Educontraception

The President of Nigeria has warned that his country cannot continue indefinitely the present rate of population increase, as BBC Radio 4 reported. (6.50 a.m., Thursday 28 June 2012) The trouble, the BBC journalist explained, arises from the fact that Nigeria is a religious country. It is dominated by Muslims and Christians, who all “have the notion that” children are a gift from God. The Muslims and Christians also think of children as riches and (another notion now unheard of in the West?) that children may look after parents in old age.

BBC overseas correspondents must take care not to suggest that the people they report are primitive or in any way inferior to us Europeans, but at this point the BBC man could not but assume that the *notion* of children as a gift from God is one of those strange things we hear reported of primitive peoples lost in an obsolete world-picture. Without any need of thought, we know better. Children are not a gift at all, and are not procreated but, in accordance with the laws of biology, come about as a result either of family planning or of the accidental deflection of sex from its true role of giving pleasure. If the light of this self-evident Western truth dawned upon Nigeria, the first step would have been taken towards solving their problem.

For the solution, said the BBC man, speaking within *our* world-picture where another “notion” is presupposed, is: EDUCATION. What else could it be? Education, education, education, into Western ways, solves all social and economic problems.

So now we know what education is. Education = contraception. A British Government agency is spreading the saving knowledge of contraception through darkest Africa just as in earlier centuries missionaries used to shed the light of the Gospel.

The British state, too, is worried about “dysfunctional” families, with single mothers bringing up large numbers of children at state expense. “Mothers from problem families should feel ‘ashamed’ of how they are damaging society . . . according to a senior government adviser . . . [who] warns that the state must start telling mothers with large families to take ‘responsibility’ and stop getting pregnant . . .” (Sky News 21 July 2012)

But by what authority does the British state tell British mothers anything?

The United Kingdom, the Prime Minister observed last December, is still a Christian country. If so, the state tells everybody that the proper place for children is within the honourable estate of holy Matrimony. If she brings children into the world otherwise, that is the reason, in a Christian country, for the mother to be ashamed.

In fact, not for the first time, the U.K. is half in and half out of Christendom. The BBC and “the Prime Minister’s troubled families tsar” utter the unchallengeable presuppositions of the enlightened West. On the other hand the state is vaguely in favour of marriage.

Within marriage, in a Christian country, children are the gift of God, to be brought up in the fear and nurture of the Lord.

*Like as the arrows in the hand of the giant : even so are the young children.
Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them : they shall not be ashamed
when they speak with their enemies in the gate.*