

Review of: "How can Ecological ethics assist in the progress of man? - Towards a reflection on the Encyclical letter Laudato si'" data-bbox="57 104 925 183"/>

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

TITLE: "How can Ecological ethics assist in the progress of man? Towards a reflection on the Encyclical letter Laudato si'"

COMMENT: In the title, reference is made to "man" as a synonym for "humanity." Why not refer directly to "humanity"? The term "man" is not within the canon of gender equality that constitutes one of the pillars to achieve a better world and planet, along with the elimination of poverty and other social injustices.

The following title is suggested:

"How can Ecological ethics assist in the progress of humanity? Towards a reflection on the Encyclical letter Laudato si"

COMMENT Nº 1: NOT ONLY TECHNICAL TOOLS CAN SOLVE THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS, BUT THEY ARE VERY IMPORTANT

"Our living space is in such a crisis, that its solution cannot be resolved by technical tools but firstly and mainly by changing a human's mind towards his surroundings".

The idea that with a change of attitude we can solve the environmental crisis is not correct. In addition to our attitude and habits, we must implement rigorous technical solutions to stop serious impacts such as pollution (for example, the dumping of waste into continental waters; this is just one example among many others).

The following sentence is suggested:

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Our living space is in such a crisis, that its solution cannot only be resolved by technical tools but firstly and mainly by changing a human's mind towards his surroundings.

COMMENT Nº 2: IT SEEMS UNFAIR TO SAY THAT THE POLLUTION OF THE PLANET ARISES FROM THE PRIDE AND LACK OF HUMILITY OF ALL OF HUMANITY.

"Also, environmental pollution, as one of the seven modern mortal sins, rises from pride and from lack of

humility.”

The phrase encompasses all of humanity. It seems unfair to say that the pollution of the planet arises from the pride and lack of humility of humanity. Pride and lack of humility can come from people with decision-making power in many sectors of society (such as the industrial sector and politicians). Citizens (like you and me), without being aware of it, having knowledge of it, we are contributing to polluting the planet's waters every time we use the toilet. And this happens for many reasons, far from being attributed solely to the pride and lack of humility of a sector of humanity. The entire humanity cannot get involved in such a statement. For example: 1) Wastewater should always be properly treated by wastewater treatment plants (WTPs) but WTPs do not exist in poor societies that do not even have anything to eat (Ganges River, India; etc); 2) We need more environmental education. Citizens wanting to help the environment, many times we do things wrong out of ignorance (like to throw household waste or cooking oils down the drains of their home); 3) In general, we need awareness, and many of us (even those who want to help the environment) prefer to use our free time not thinking about what is truly important (perhaps this will not happen due to lack of humility).

Suggestion for the author: The phrase “**Also, environmental pollution, as one of the seven modern mortal sins, rises from pride and from lack of humility**” should be more precise and should consider the different cases that can lead to contaminating and destroying our environment.

COMMENT Nº 3: NOT SO MUCH GLOBALIZATION, BUT RATHER THE LACK OF PLANNING AND FORESIGHT HAS MADE GLOBALIZATION A PROBLEM

“Because of globalisation, this modern sin became a worldwide problem”.

Due to globalization, certainly, but also due to the lack of foresight, which is one of the great errors that accompanies the human species. A rationalized, well-planned globalization, advanced to the problems generated by the growing integration of economies around the world, could have gone differently. The solution is not to stop progress. The solution is to plan progress rationally, taking into account all actors: most disadvantaged societies, impact on the environment, etc. Progress should not be an ally of financial interests, although unfortunately it is.

Suggestion for the author: The phrase “Because of globalisation, this modern sin became a worldwide problem” it should be redrafted including the idea that a good part of the problem derives from a lack of planning and foresight.

COMMENT Nº 4: LUXURY IN DRESSING, EATING OR LIVING IS ONLY WITHIN THE REACH OF RICH SOCIETIES. TOURISM SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS A HARMFUL LUXURY

“Better air, sea, and woods should be valued more than higher luxury in dressing, eating, living or tourism.”

The manuscript seems to be speaking all the time in the voice of well-off societies, it does not seem to take into account the disadvantaged. In this sense, it is assumed that everyone in the world can buy clothes to wear and spare food within their reach. Again, I think the author should make it clearer what he is talking about and delve deeper into the topic.

"Capricious" tourism and tourism taken to the extreme (like, for example, wanting to have breakfast in Paris while living in London) are harmful, but it should not be forgotten that many third world countries are surviving (at least, at the moment).

thanks to tourism. And, also here, we must go deeper: there are many types of tourism. There is ecotourism (which has favored the conservation of many natural reserves in Africa), there is sustainable tourism (which tries to be kind to the environment) and there is rural tourism (which feeds regions far from large cities and towns, allowing so these regions can stay up to date).

Suggestion for the author: Perhaps instead the phrase "Air, sea and forests should be valued more than luxury when dressing, eating, living or tourism" it should be said something like:

"Economically privileged people should put the value of air, sea and forests above luxurious clothing, opulent meals and excessive tourism."

COMMENT Nº 5:

Although the title of the manuscript already refers to what it refers to, it would not be out of place to round off the sentence as follows:

"For this reason, we will try to make a few suggestions in our proposal on how ecological ethics could contribute to improve the progress of humanity".

COMMENT Nº 6: WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT HUMAN AND NON-HUMAN LIFE -OR ABOUT OTHER FORMS OF EARTH'S BIODIVERSITY- BUT NOT ABOUT "SUBHUMAN LIFE" -OR "INFERIOR FORM OF LIFE"-

Currently the different forms of life are not classified into superior and inferior. Animals should not be considered inferior to humans either. In primatology, it is common to speak of non-human primates to refer to primates not including the human species. In a manuscript like this, which seeks to foster respect for nature, term susceptible to misunderstanding like **"subhuman life"** or **"inferior form of life"** should not be used.

Suggestion for the author: Please use the terms "non-human life" or "other forms of earth's diversity".

COMMENT Nº 7: NOT ALL ENVIRONMENTALISTS WORK WITHOUT THINKING HUMAN RIGHTS

"To this human ecology and Integral development, we add that the main gap in environmental protection between environmentalists is the effort to save nature by focusing only *on itself*".

It is increasingly clear that the climate crisis will not be overcome nor will it be possible to achieve a sustainable planet if poverty and social injustice are not eradicated at the same time. There are associations, foundations, universities, etc. that work in these terms:

<https://ae-ea.es/justicia-social-y-medio-ambiente/>

<https://www.fuhem.es/fuhem/>

<https://cicostarica.org/es/desarrollo-sostenible-y-justicia-social/>

<https://www.luc.edu/sustainability/about/ourmission/>

<https://www.bcnuej.org/>

Suggestion for the author:

It is suggested to write:

"To this human ecology and Integral development, we add that the main gap in environmental protection in a great part of environmentalists movements is the effort to save nature by focusing only on itself"