

PROFIT ETHICS AND THE BIO-ENVIRONMENT

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Plato once said that, "Morality is the effective harmony of the whole." Many philosophers through the ages have formulated their theories on what is moral and almost all of them have come to the conclusion that moral is "what is good for the whole." I believe that the philosophy of Biopolitics is exactly that; to defend what is good for the whole world, raise awareness of the importance of life in every existence on earth and promote respect for the precious gift of bios. However, we are here to examine a compatible scope between profit and the bio-environment. With the above moral philosophy, profit and the bio-environment can be compatible. Do we need profit? Of course we do. It is the main incentive to almost every human activity. It is the lever to the development of the world.

However, profit involves exploiting world resources so how can such exploitation not disturb the balance of the environment? How can the two issues be compatible? They can be compatible, only if based on ethical values. World resources, if handled with care, can replenish themselves to a great extent. Technology, if rightly used, is a precious tool and can help us in this effort. But here again, it is a matter of ethical values and the question becomes: "how does one obtain ethical values?" This is the key.

We all share the same planet. So, our main aim should be to make this a better place in which to live. We need a thorough awareness of the world around us. Technology, in our century, has achieved undreamed of heights but unfortunately intellectual culture, that gives true meaning to life, has not been given the priority it should have had in education. We, therefore, need a strong emphasis on humanistic education so as to avoid destroying this world through our technical knowledge, like a child playing with fire. We need balance!

From the moment Dr. Agni Vlavianos-Arvanitis explained her philosophy to me, I was convinced that Biopolitics covered these requirements and should become an integral part of our education. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her publicly and congratulate her on her outstanding work. In conclusion, I believe that ethical values, obtained through a broad humanistic education, constitute the fundamental principle leading to the compatibility of profit and bio-environment.

Kitty P. Kyriacopoulos was born in Romania and received her basic education in England and France. She is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College, U.S.A., with a concentration in physics and mathematics and did graduate work at Columbia University. From 1970 to 1980 she was the President and managing director of the Mining Complex Eliopoulou-Kyriacopoulou and has served as chairman of the board since 1986. Married since 1950 to Mr. Paris Kyriacopoulos, President of the Central Union of Hellenic Chambers of Commerce, she has two children, a son and a daughter.