Why did families live for 6,000 years in caves and floorless hovels, without windows or chimneys—then within a few generations, we in the United States take floors, rugs, chairs, tables, windows, and chimneys for granted and regard electric lights, refrigerators, running water, porcelain baths, and toilets as common necessities?

What has been responsible for this unprecedented burst of progress, which has so quickly transformed a hostile wilderness into the most prosperous and advanced country that the world has ever known?

The United States certainly has no monopoly on natural resources. And in most countries the people work much harder, on the average, than we do. We are not a superior people. Our ancestors in the Old World, starved right along with everyone else.

There is just one answer. There can be no other. We in the United States of America have made more effective use of human energy than any other people on the face of the globe—anywhere or at any time.

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This entire planet is made up of energy. The atoms of air surrounding it are energy. The Sun pours energy upon this air and upon this Earth. Life depends on energy; in fact, life is energy.

Every living thing must struggle for existence, and human beings are no exception. Men and women survive on this Earth only because their energies constantly convert other forms of energy to satisfy human needs, and constantly attack the nonhuman energies that are dangerous to human existence.

But—only an individual human being can generate human energy.

And—only an individual human being can control the energy he generates.

The failure to understand these two simple and basic truths has, for over 6,000 years, stagnated human progress and kept the vast majority of people underfed, poorly clothed, embroiled in wars, and dying from famine and pestilence.

Human energy is intelligence in action.

Intelligence is brought into action by the Will.

An individual free will is the natural heritage of each living person.

No one knows who first made this discovery—that men are free.

It was not when all men were pagans. It would never have been discovered by a pagan.

The pagans were fatalists—everything was foreordained by the gods.

If this were so, then the individual could not be held responsible for anything. That was the way the pagans wanted it to be.

But Abraham denied the existence of all the pagan gods. He insisted that there is only one God—the God of all things, who not only creates but judges. He taught his increasing family that God is Rightness, Reality, and Truth; that man is free and self-controlling and responsible for his own acts; that each person is free to do good or evil, as he may choose; but that any wrong act will result in punishment for the evildoer.

This was the first and only real revolution which has ever occurred. It was the revolution against pagan fatalism—the revolution of human freedom.

The American Revolution is only important because it resulted in the Constitution of the United States of America. In the Revolution for Human Freedom, it is the only thing which is really new.

It made the government the servant of the people.

In the Land We Live In, we have the greatest opportunity for self-improvement and personal advancement which has ever existed on the face of the Earth. It is up to the individual to take advantage of it; it cannot be otherwise. There are no substitutes for self-faith, self-reliance, self-development, individual effort and personal responsibility.

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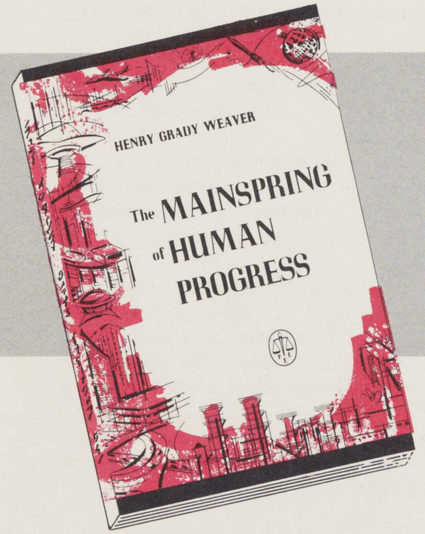

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