

Paternity v. Paternalism

Paternalism proclaims:

"Father knows best."

Paternity replies:

"I serve the rest."

Paternity begets and
nurtures life;

paternalism manages
and controls it.

Paternity involves
relatedness;
paternalism implies
one-sidedness.

Paternalism erodes
autonomy;
paternity fosters
self-reliance.

Paternalism molds you
into its image;
paternity evokes
your individuality.

Socially, paternalism
spawns colonialism;
spiritually, paternity
motivates mission.

Politically, paternalism
begets imperialism;
theologically, paternity
creates solidarity

The young rebel
when parents and teachers
practice paternalism;
youth, however, flourish
when inspired by
paternity.

Citizens languish
if regimes are tainted
by paternalism;
they thrive, however,
if governments partake
of paternity.

Therefore, if you--
male or female--
exercise authority,
avoid the stunting
effects of paternalism
but pursue the bracing
stimulus of paternity.

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