The Case against Perfection

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Promise & Predicament

• “Better than well”

• Autonomy Argument
  – None of us chooses our genes
  – Genetic lottery

• Moral Quandary of when people use gene therapy to reach beyond disease
Arguments that need Strengthening

- Fairness Argument (Muscles)
- Equal Access Argument (Memory)
- Arms-Race Argument (Height)
- Sex Selection Arguments
Human Agency

• Admiration for Achievement fading
• Deeper Danger of Hyperagency
• Giftedness of life
• Two types of athletic achievement
• Corruption of Athletic Competition p. 510
What’s really happening here?

• Ethic of willfulness vs. Ethic of giftedness
• Openness to the unbidden (William May)
• Drive to master the mystery of birth
• Mandate to mold/improve our children
• Hyperparenting

• An anxious excess of mastery and dominion that misses the sense of life as a gift...
Transforming the Moral Landscape

• Humility changes (parenting and self)
  – Parenthood is a school for humility.
• Responsibility changes (parenting)
• Solidarity changes (insurance example)

“Threatens to banish our appreciation of life as a gift, and to leave us with nothing to affirm or behold outside of our own will.”
Essentially....
The idolatry of self is made complete.