

第 1 講 「生命科学」

次の英文を読み、設問に答えよ。

Why do four out of five Americans think that human cloning is “against God’s will” or “morally wrong”? Why are people so frightened by this technology? One important reason is that ⁽¹⁾many people have a muddled sense of what cloning is. They confuse the popular meaning of the word *clone*, and the specific meaning it
5 takes on in the context of biology.

In its popular usage, *clone* refers to something that is a *duplicate, or cheaper imitation, of a brand-name person, place, or thing. The British leader Tony Blair has been called a clone of Bill Clinton, and an IBM PC clone is not only built like an IBM PC, it *behaves* like an IBM PC. ⁽²⁾It is this popular meaning of the word that
10 caused many people to believe that human cloning would copy not just a person’s body, but a person’s consciousness as well. In the movie *Multiplicity*, a *geneticist makes a clone of the star character and explains that the clone will have “all of his feelings, all his peculiarities, all of his memories, right up to the moment of cloning.” The clone himself says to the original character, “You are me, I am you.” It is this
15 image that one critic had in mind when he condemned the possible application of clone technology to humans by saying, “It’s a terrible crime to make a Xerox copy of someone.”

But this popular image bears absolutely no resemblance to actual cloning technology, in either process or outcome. Scientists cannot make full-grown adult
20 copies of any animal, (3a) humans. ⁽⁴⁾All they can do is start the process of development over again, using genetic material obtained from an adult. Real biological cloning can only take place at the level of the cell — life *in the general sense*. It is only long after the cloning event is completed that a unique and independent life *in the special sense* can emerge in the developing *fetus. Once
25 again, it is the inability of many people to appreciate the difference between the two meanings of “life” that is the cause of confusion.

A second reason people fear cloning is based on the notion that a clone is an *imperfect* imitation of the (5) thing. This causes some people to think that —