

Facing the 21st Century's challenges by the Tools of Astronautic Humanism

By Adriano V. Autino

Abstract

The aim of this paper is to introduce the basic concepts of Astronautic Humanism, a new philosophic current whose roots began a century ago with Konstantin Tsiolkosky and his famous sentence "*Earth is the cradle of man, but one cannot live his whole life in a cradle*".

Just a couple of years ago, when the SRI founders started discussing the possibility of a *space renaissance* spreading around the world, critics said action, science, and technology are needed for humans to expand into space – not words. We went ahead at our pace, developing the discussion about *astronautic humanism* as a means of fostering a new Copernican revolution. In fact, the general perception of the world is limited to the boundaries of our mother planet. Scientific and technological means for human expansion into space are fully within our range. What is missing is a political orientation and a public awareness of the urgency of space.

After estimating the improved feasibility of this philosophic re-foundation, the paper defines astronautic humanism and points out similarities and differences between this discipline and classic humanism, in both of which the human being is the focus. With an awareness that our mother planet cannot be enough forever for a growing civilization, human life is re-evaluated, facing the current challenges of civilization and other philosophical currents that place a priority on freezing the natural environment as it is. Growth is analyzed from different points of view. If we want the civilization to keep on advancing, growth is a must. The Solar System can provide a platform a thousand-fold greater than the one needed by seven billion people. Being humanists, we need an open world philosophy, expanding the concept of "home" to the whole Solar System.

The paper's last section discusses the cosmic evolutionary destiny of our species. The concept of the whole Solar System as a living organism is proposed: Gaia is not a solitary oasis in a desert, and our task as a species is to help intelligent life spread in the universe, more than being a passive "guardian" of it on a single planet.

See Adriano Autino's complete paper at www.spacerenaissance.org/papers/Facing-the-21st-Century-Civilization-Challenges-by-the-Tools-of-Astronautic-Humanism.pdf

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About the Author: Adriano Vittorio Autino is the president of the Space Renaissance International (www.spacerenaissance.org), a cultural association founded in 2010. Adriano

was born in Moncrivello, Vercelli (Italy) in 1949. He grew up and studied in Turin, where he graduated in Electronics in 1969 and attended the Faculty of Computer Sciences with success, but soon abandoned it in favor of his professional career. Adriano is now an entrepreneur in the field of Information Technology and Automation (see www.ase-ltd.co.uk). Professionally committed to quality and maturity of the design processes, he personally designed software for project life cycle management. He also writes and actively participates in research on the evolution of methodological standards, with the aim of simplifying and rationalizing them. In 1989 he reviewed, for a small newspaper, the book *The Nuclear Dilemma* by Prof. Carlo Rubbia: it was the beginning of his reflections on human development vs. the finite resources of planet Earth. He wrote an essay, entitled "The World is Over." In 1993-94, Adriano conceived the project of a magazine called "Technologies of the Frontier," which began a discussion with scholars from other countries around the concepts of the space option and global options for the continuation of civilization. A new language begun taking shape and the participants started discussing neo-humanism and astro-humanism, recalling authors such as Gerard O'Neill, Krafft Ehrlicke, Constantin Tsiolkowsky, and other forerunners, as a scientific and philosophical movement. In 1998, the concept of the Greater Earth was born. Since 1997, Autino has participated in the IAF (International Astronautical Federation) congresses, presenting his papers on the themes of human expansion into outer space. In 2001, following the terrifying tsunami that swept Southeast Asia causing hundreds of thousands of deaths, he felt the need to react, philosophically, against creeping nihilism, countering an optimistic view of the world to the closed catastrophic visions and the decline of civilization: "Our Earth is not sick: She's Pregnant!" In 2008, during the second international convention of Technologies of the Frontier at Belgirate (Italy), titled "A New Renaissance: Colonizing the Moon and the Near Earth Asteroids", the concept of a space renaissance saw the light of day. During 2009, the Space Renaissance Initiative developed, and in 2010 the Space Renaissance International was founded.



Adriano V. Autino

Adriano coauthored the book *Three Thesis for the Space Renaissance* (www.lulu.com/commerce/index.php?fBuyContent=10003567).

In 2008, he published *La Terra non e' malata: e' incinta!* (Earth is not sick: She's pregnant!) in Italian.

He is author of *The Copernican Evidence – Requirements for a Space Age Philosophy* (www.spacefuture.com/archive/the_copernican_evidence_requirements_for_a_space_age_philosophy.shtml) and coauthor of *What the Growth of a Space Tourism Industry Could Contribute to Employment, Economic Growth, Environmental Protection, Education, Culture, and World Peace* (www.spacefuture.com/archive/what_the_growth_of_a_space_tourism_industry_could_contribute_to_employment_economic_growth_environmental_protection_education_culture_and_world_peace.shtml).

Listen to Adriano on the *The Space Show* (www.thespaceshow.com/detail.asp?q=265) hosted by Dr. David Livingston.

Read his LinkedIn profile (it.linkedin.com/in/adrianoautino).

Visit his Facebook page (facebook.com/adriano.autino).

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Editor's Note: Adriano Autino's leadership of the Space Renaissance International (SRI) organization brought collaboration with our Kepler Space Institute beginning in 2010. It was very important for this Journal of Space Philosophy that Adriano's work over the past decade had produced an excellent collection of Space Philosophy. Inviting him to contribute to this Issue #1 was logical and beneficial. KSI leadership welcomes him as a Member of the Board of Editors for the Journal and look forward to continued collaboration. *Bob Krone, PhD.*
