

AND THEY LOCKED HIM IN A ROOM

And they locked him in a room
 There amidst the dust and gloom,
 And they laid him down upon a tiny cot.
 And they went away with sorrow
 Thinking of his grey tomorrow
 And yet they left him there in solitude to rot.
 And his eyes began to wander
 As his mind began to ponder,
 And elaborate upon his desperate plight.
 And his eyes began their burning
 As his frail body turning,
 Spent what was to them a restful night.
 And a pigeon he did spy,
 And the world was in its eye,
 And he uttered what was then naught but a mumble.
 And through the ferric bars,
 He saw life, the falling stars,
 And all destroyed but he, as it did crumble.
 And he put them in a room
 There amidst the dust and gloom,
 And he laid them down, all on one tiny cot.
 And as his life began its wane,
 There interred in drizzling rain,
 He mused and laughed aloud as they did rot.

JAY LARKIN

A Commentary on the Principal Element in the Decline and Fall of "The Human Race"

Andrew Keyes

AFTER MANY hours of prolonged and prodigious study, I have finally arrived at the determining factor in the decline and descent of racial cultures, both modern and ancient. It is my conclusion that silverware is the factor; that eating utensils are the most important inventions in the history of mankind. Let me now trace the path of this momentous but malignant discovery through the ages.

Consider, if you will, the first man: strong, healthy, and perfectly content. He ate with his fingers and was satisfied. Then one day he made a discovery: it's easier to eat broth or stew using a ladle-like affair, which he called a spoon. This was all well and good; however, it should not be carried too far. He realized this

and warned his fellow man. But the ears of humanity were closed.

Let us next observe the Greeks. In their society the spoon became the epitome of strength and usefulness, a beauty to behold. But in time the Greeks paid the price for their luxuries. They were conquered by the crude-spooned Romans of the West.

The Romans then copied the Greek spoon and developed it even more. Bronze and gold spoons with graceful lines and ornate engraving became the symbol of Rome's decadent masses. The Romans literally spooned their morals down the drain.

However, the Romans' days were soon to end; they were overcome by the truculent barbarians from the North with their simple wooden and stone spoons. This split Europe into numerous, small feudal holdings, each with its own type of spoon, and she was to stay this way until united by the fork, which brought with it the Renaissance.

Originally designed as a two-pronged device to facilitate the carrying of food to the mouth, the fork soon met the same fate that the spoon did; it became extravagant and richly designed.

Following the fork, the knife became tableware, and it too followed the path of its forefathers, the fork and spoon. Men became soft and corrupt once more.

In the sixteen hundreds silverware came to America. Here it returned to its original form, and its simplicity personified the pioneer spirit of our early settlers. In its hardy ruggedness it reflected their patriotism and strength of will. Those first Americans had no use for elaborate silverware, so why do we? Luxurious silverware has become the symbol of a nation trying desperately to live like kings but instead sinking into the black mire of decadence.

Possibly there is still time to save ourselves. If we will only realize the errors of our ways and reform, we may obtain salvation. In view of this possibility I present the following suggestions:

1. Keep your silverware simple, and do not let it go to your head.
2. Strive to abolish extravagant silverware and the evil it stands for.
3. Do not let your local, state, or federal governments be taken over by honey-mouthed politicians bearing fancy spoons.

In these and only these ways may our culture be preserved for posterity. Act now!