

**The 9th Helen Snow Translation Award Competition**  
**E-C Translation**

**Thesis and Antithesis**

By Helen Snow

In most of the fifty-three books I have written (mostly unpublished as yet) the following ideas and these are to be found, of course not in the same manuscript. Added together they are a way of thinking and doing and not doing that is worth studying in this global extremity.

1. I am certain of one thing: that the industrial producer cooperative is the best and most feasible bridge over the industrial areas to the third world, and internally in the third world, co-existing always with Big Industry and any kind of economy, state-owned or private or mixed. Even Gorbachev in 1988 began advocating industrial co-ops and they can be a bridge to his problem of many minorities in various stages of development. Because of me, a new term was put into English dictionaries in World War II—"Gung Ho," which only means "work-together" in Chinese or "cooperative". I was the prime mover in starting these in China in 1938, supported by my husband, Edgar Snow, and Rwei Alley. One of our best friends, Col. Evans F. Carlson joined our committee and used "Gung Ho," as his Marine Corps slogan. The film of that name in 1943 is still being shown during the year. No other language has this exact meaning, nor does the Chinese. It has come to mean teamwork, all out, all the way. We four are the GUNG HO ORIGINALS and each had his own following, though mine was small and I was too busy with do-gooderism even to write all my books and put my ideas on paper.

2. "BRIDGING." That is the only name I can think of for my "ism." My ideas are a bridge over capitalism and socialism and social democracy and East and West, all that. This is done by magic and errors, but best of all by adding bye-laws to the above industrial cooperative to make them progressive and a leadership group. These ethics are much the same as the 17th century revolution in England, and the founding of New England by the same element. First is the work-ethic (work is good for its own sake), next is the truth-ethic, but this may not be advisable for any Asian nation, as deception is a part of the art of survival. We must add conservation, environmentalism, organic living and thinking, all that.

My thesis for women is also a bridge over what has become called "feminism," and other theories on women. I wrote the first history of "Women in Modern China," 1964, and figured out that the nature of Chinese society was and still is the Confucian kinship clan and nepotist.

3. Simply put, my thesis is this: FROM EACH ACCORDING TO ABILITY, TO EACH ACCORDING TO WORK, NEED, and SOCIAL USEFUL OR DESIRABLE FUNCTION, in balance. These ideas go back to the Bible—to the parable of the talents and to Acts II. The new England covenanted village was based on the original phrase, not my addiction. Because of maternal function, women need more, not less and not the same as men, especially special protection. So do writers, artists and those who create the monuments of civilization. So do the leaders who carry out public service and risk their lives and fortunes. This means no Equal Rights Amendment is desirable and no federal forcing against differentiation. I like law, structure, responsibility, women as women, not as non-women, non-men neuters.

4. MEANING. It is silly and childish to ask what is the meaning of life? It is enough to appreciate that the human endeavour has been successful in surviving a couple of million years or so. Religion is an instinct for civilization and development, or it has played this role and given incentive for the human race to WANT TO SURVIVE, considering the problems. You can create meaning by a very simple principle, which is known as the meaning of eating, only when you have been hungry. Nuclear marriage has value only when you pay a high price for it, such as having to support the wife all her lifetime, except in case of divorce for cause, and her children up to the age of 18. Since sluts destroy all meaning, not only that of the natural male-female attraction of opposites.

5. POWER BY PERCUSSION. This is the principle of the steam engine and of the English domination over palm and pine, as well as creating the industrial revolution and inventing the scientific mind. I have written a big tome called “Ethics and Energism,” which explains this principle. It is the principle by means of which the Puritans in New England established that advanced form of civilization called “American” up to the 1960’s, and then they built up the whole continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, at least in the north. But the Baptists and Methodists and Scots-Irish were just as much as Puritans as the New Englanders.

If you want a word to have power, make sure you do not over use it. You build up a steam by percussion and that is the secret of healthy and exacting love and life, contrary to Freud and all the little Freudians of whatever persuasion. Self-denial is the energism.

6. SPIRITUAL POWER. Teilhard de Chardin figured this out. You create it by the maximum development of body, mind and psychology. You do not deny science and tread on red coals or waste time in sick meditation and soul-searching. You have physical culture and learning all the time, never ending the evolution of “the phenomenon of man,” who is not an animal or a vegetable. Health is the secret, not sickness and psychosis and hallucinations.

7. ORGANIC LIVING AND THINKING. The basic human rights are pure water,

pure air, pure food and the right to work, which is good for its own sake. Nature means for an organism to die when it becomes suicidal—suicidal means drugs, alcoholism, crime, any anti-social behaviour.

We must have the Nature Connection, even if it is only sunset and sunrise from a high rise building with pure air compared with that on the street, foul with auto exhaust. Animal affection is the most attractive quality of all animals, including man. Only mentally ill people do not love wildness and wildlife as the primeval environment.

8. REALITY OR ILLUSION, TRUTH OR LIES. This is a real problem in the age of television, radio, electronic everything. The human mind is damaged by only visual perception. It cannot think or even realize what it is looking at. It is language and words that make reason and logic and knowledge possible. I used to think truth is good for its own sake. Much of my life has been spent correcting mistakes, misunderstanding and outright lies, specifically about China the most confusing of all subjects, especially to the Chinese trying to be “modern.” I now have to admit that the Big Lies may have more influence on history and present events than the actual facts. I realize the mankind has an instinct for imagination and creating religions objects and superstitions.

(1181 words)