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THE ASCENT OF MAN

by

Dr J. Bronowski

In every age there is a turning point, a new way of seeing and asserting the coherence of the world. It is frozen in the statues of Easter Island that put a stop to time—and in the medieval clocks in Europe that once also seemed to say the last word about the heavens for ever. Each culture tries to fix its visionary moment, when it was transformed by a new conception either of nature or of man. That series of inventions, by which man from age to age has remade his environment, is a new kind of evolution—not biological, but cultural evolution. I call that brilliant sequence of cultural peaks ‘The Ascent of Man’.

In a series of thirteen weekly television films, Dr J. Bronowski, of the Salk Institute, San Diego, California, presents a personal view of the history of ideas. The first film in the series, ‘Lower than the angels’ will be transmitted on BBC 2 on 5th May. ‘The Ascent of Man’ will be repeated in the Autumn, 1973, when an illustrated book is being published. Dr Bronowski’s expanded text for the book will be appearing in *The Listener* as a series of weekly articles.

JOURNAL OF BIOSOCIAL SCIENCE

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The Editor reserves the right to make minor literary emendations in the final editing, but manuscripts will not be altered substantially without consultation with the author or marked unless the paper is thought provisionally to be acceptable.

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