FRANKENSTEIN AND THE ETHICS OF SCIENCE

Frankenstein was a modern Prometheus who tried to create a human being, but failed in his execution of it.

The modern biosciences all conspire toward the same goal, the modern making of humans through the correction of physical and mental faults and failures that bring disease and death.

Human purposes and motives guide the making and decide what is to be done with the product.

Human purposes, however, are related to particular choices made at various junctures of human experience.

And these particular choices are the common, daily matter of our moral lives.

Bioethics must attempt to articulate the meaning, value, and dignity of human life as well as respond to questions such as:

"under what conditions should a human life be saved (or even... created)?"