

## *Paternity v. Paternalism*

Paternalism proclaims:

"Father knows best."

Paternity replies:

"I serve the rest."

Paternity begets and  
nurtures life;

paternalism manages  
and controls it.

Paternity involves  
relatedness;  
paternalism implies  
one-sidedness.

Paternalism erodes  
autonomy;  
paternity fosters  
self-reliance.

Paternalism molds you  
into its image;  
paternity evokes  
your individuality.

Socially, paternalism  
spawns colonialism;  
spiritually, paternity  
motivates mission.

Politically, paternalism  
begets imperialism;  
theologically, paternity  
creates solidarity

The young rebel  
when parents and teachers  
practice paternalism;  
youth, however, flourish  
when inspired by  
paternity.

Citizens languish  
if regimes are tainted  
by paternalism;  
they thrive, however,  
if governments partake  
of paternity.

Therefore, if you--  
male or female--  
exercise authority,  
avoid the stunting  
effects of paternalism  
but pursue the bracing  
stimulus of paternity.

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