In a short twenty-five hundred years since the beginning of Western civilization with the Greeks, man had discovered his own peculiar nature. He was the animal who created and dramatized his own meanings....

If we were immodest, we could say that man's reason had finally given him the possibility of full possession of himself, to do with as he may. But it would be truer to say that evolution had brought life to the point of its greatest liberation.

Or perhaps it would be most true to speak mythically in the face of this awesome and ill-understood achievement, and to say man had finally become a potentially full open vehicle for the design of God.

Ernest Becker
in Beyond Alienation