

Melina Townsend

Humanism and Cynicism-Paper

Humanism and Cynicism Essay:

In a perfect world, everyone would have the morality clause; they would understand right from wrong and do everything they could always do to have good behavior. Unfortunately, that is not always the case, and this world is constantly in a massive battle of the thousands of evil things people do. It is also the huge battles people have to face in difficult situations and make choices that could impact the rest of their lives. Due to those choices, those individuals tend to create a divide between people even if they made the correct decision at the time. This causes our world to be cold and untrusting of people and the environments in which we live. Other factors play into the morality clause being broken, and people seem to go silent when discussing it. I take the moral high ground, but that does not mean it is not challenging at times and it doesn't mean everyone will see that I made good decisions either.

The question we have to ask ourselves is whether humans are inherently good or evil. In a sense, we start good and instinctively try to do the right thing even when we do not realize that is what we are doing. In the video "Born Good? Babies Help Unlock the Origins of Morality" (CBS News) when they test the babies that cannot talk but make only a few noises and use their eyes to show what interests them. Most instinctively choose the good puppy over the bad puppy with the split being 80/20. Does it prove from our first breath of air that we understand good from evil and that the environment along with the people around us could be why people stop instinctively choosing to do the right thing? Not because people do not know how to be good but

because there is pressure to do the opposite of following a good moral standard? Do we have a hard time expressing that we want to do the right thing but feeling as though we will fall short and people will look at us differently?

I have learned through my own experiences while watching kids as a nanny that kids are brilliant and do observe everything that the grownups in their lives are doing. Most children are the first to call out the bad behavior and if someone is doing something wrong. Whether it is because they understand that what they saw was not right and might have been against the rules, or simply the children call out their parents when they know that their parents are lying. Most children do not have an evil bone in their body to create such destructive behaviors instead, they use those destructive behaviours because that is what they have observed others doing. Most children who are taught to tell the truth are more vocal when they observe others not telling the truth. So when their siblings or parents are not telling the truth, they are more likely to call it out because that is what they were taught to do from the very people that they are calling out from lying.

As adults, we are naturally selfish and constantly willing to do what best fits what we need, however this behaviour is something that was learned over time from the environment in which we grew up in. A great example of this would be from "The Lottery" (Shirley Jackson) where this short story identifies and shows the selfishness that one has when things do not go their way. Tessie, the main character of this short story, shows her selfishness throughout the story with how Tessie was utterly okay with going along with the lottery and the devastating results that it would have on those around her. Tessie's selfishness came out the minute she was picked by chance in the lottery. She was suddenly so willing to try to change the rules as soon as she understood the natural consequence that was falling upon her. The lottery was incorrect, as it

could have profound and dark consequences for a person and their family. The very creation of the lottery can be seen as the byproduct of too many people having low moral standards. These low moral standards are perpetuated with each generation as can be seen with Tessie's thoughts and actions. Even though it was not right, Tessie was still willing to do the wrong thing until she was the one who would be affected. She expected the residents to do the right thing and save her just as all the other lottery winners did before her. This is a great way to understand that people understand right from wrong, and they understand that having a moral code is important, but it is only when it is convenient to them.

I always wondered what people were willing to do and how brave they could be when making the right choice for themselves. Jana Kramer, country star and actress in *One Tree Hill*, was in an abusive marriage where her husband "would regularly beat and choke her" (*People Magazine*). The moral dilemma for Kramer was to stay or leave; to her, the wrong decision at the time was to leave. This decision came after the immense amount of trauma and pain she endured while in this marriage. A little while after, Kramer had another incident with her ex-husband on their gravel driveway, leaving her physically in rough shape and bleeding. This was her breaking point, and she speaks about how she prayed to be taken. "Please just take me away; I do not want to be here anymore" (Jana Kramer). She finally escaped this when her ex-husband was sentenced to six years in jail and then committed suicide shortly after being released. Trauma has a funny way of tricking your mind into believing what is wrong and that bad decisions are ultimately correct.

One significant documentary story out there right now on Hulu is called: "Devil In The Family: The Fall of Ruby Franke." There are many moral and controversial topics about this family and what happened to them. One of the moral topics is whether Ruby Franke should have

used her family and rid them of all of their privacy to have a family vlog, which brought in thousands of dollars. Which made them all vulnerable to online predators and people like Jodi Hildibrant, who abused her children and twisted their whole family into pieces. Ruby Franke made the wrong and most cruel choice by doing this, which, in the long run, left her family in pieces and shattered. Abused kids, parents divorced, people in jail, and kids forever traumatized (The Atlantic).

Through my own personal experiences, I have seen that when it comes to doing the morally correct thing I've been split down the middle of not knowing what the right decision was when it came time to decide whether to file a police report against my mom or not. I've had to experience years of money issues and my mom stealing money from people then immediately wasting it. It could have ended with the electricity in the house being off or something else that affected us kids. I had to decide to either file that police report or not and that dilemma was a huge one due to two things that could have happened. If I had not filed it, my credit score would have been in danger of not being able to be repaired. Which would mean I would not be able to buy a house, car, or ever take out a loan. Just the idea of a parent taking things out in their children's names is morally unacceptable no matter what the case is. Alternatively, I file the report, lose my relationships with my siblings and have additional family problems arise. I remember going over tooth and nail what the right and best decision was for my future. The decision I made was to file the report and save my future while cutting the control that my mom had over me for twenty-plus years. This moral dilemma caused a lot of pain and feelings of betrayal, but ultimately, doing the right thing to this day brought me peace and safety.

In conclusion, I hold a moral compass and have had to live a life where making the right and hard decisions is the only path to having a life worth living. In terms of humanity today, it is

tough to say. The reason it is so hard to say is that when people are faced with morally tough decisions they can be split on what is morally correct and what they have learned is the “correct” decision. At the same time, though, people know right from wrong, and it all becomes based on their environment and the people they spend time with. I can only hope that through my life journey, I will continue to fight, tell the truth, and make good decisions no matter how easy it would be to be blinded and let wrong decisions overtake me.

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