

Chapter 4: Trying Out One's New Sword

Reference: <http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0534517242>

Quote: "Nobody can respect what is entirely unintelligible to them."

I expect to learn the true meaning of respect in my personal life and others' too.

Culture is something very vital in a society. It is a way of living and or a lifestyle. One can not really deal with life without a culture because as simple as it is, culture is automatic in a person's life. In everything that we do it is basically cultural in every view of life. There are times that we become careless of our actions especially if for others the action is not right or moral. We tend to be in denial just to belong or to be fit in a society. As for me, I believe that culture is something to be valued and should be something that someone can boast off simply because it is what helped the person be he or she is.

The question now is how can we humans pay duly respect to each others' lifestyle and or culture in a way that it would not be offensive to others and our own society. We should be respectful to other cultures so that they will also return the favor. The sad thing about this is that not all humans pay respect to other cultures but the next question now is what must be done in order to at least make other people aware of being respectful to other cultures.

I believe that it can be sometimes tolerable but most of the time uncontrollable, simply because we can not explain to everyone and or educate everyone about the different cultures and how to respect it. For me, the best thing we can do is by starting with ourselves, we should pay respect to other cultures and through that if everyone may see it then for sure it will become a big deal and eventually they will realize everything. It has to start somewhere and I think it should start from us who is aware and knowledgeable.

What I learned:

- How culture is important o a person's life
- Giving respect and getting it
- Culture and respect goes together

Integrative Questions:

1. How can we make other people aware of others' culture?
2. Who is James white?
3. Can respect be earned or demanded?
4. How can respect be valuable in a society?
5. What is the relationship of respect and culture?

Chapter 5: John Stuart Mill: Utilitarianism

Reference: <http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0534517242>

Quote: “Pleasure and freedom from pain are the only things desirable as ends.”

I expect to learn what principle utility really is and how it is essential to one.

Everyone, of course wants their own freedom from anything and also experiencing sheer pleasure but especially if that is escaping from pain, but as humans, it is all part of life’s cycle but we should be aware that there’s got to be more to it. Through John Stuart Mill, he explained how it is valuable and at the same time he was able to stand up for what his thoughts are really about. Basically, utilitarianism is all about experiencing joy in each of us and I believe it is essential to one’s survival in this world especially we are a social human being.

The principle of utilitarianism is pertaining to mainly happiness, in relation to the quote, Happiness for me can be achieved but there are consequences or something in return should occur first, everything happens for a reason and sometimes we are blinded by our pleasures, but we should realize that there’s always better things that can happen after sorrows and or trials which includes pain.

Having all these kinds of emotions in our hearts and minds, I believe that we should be able to experience it wisely and with a better outlook in life and holding in ourselves the truth that there will always be hope.

What I learned:

- The relationship of happiness and pleasure**
- Experiencing pain and pleasure at the same time**
- What can be good things to do to achieve happiness?**

Integrative Questions:

- 1. What can be good things to do to achieve happiness?**
- 2. Who is John Stuart Mill?**
- 3. How can be freedom related to bondage**
- 4. What are the things happiness can not fulfill in a person?**
- 5. Can someone be able to cope up with happiness and freedom with pain?**

Chapter 6: James Rachels: The Debate over Utilitarianism

Reference: <http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0534517242>

Quote: “Is happiness the only thing that matters?”

I expect to learn how happiness can be a key to life.

When it is about utilitarianism or happiness, there should not be a debate over it simply because we all know how it is valuable or key to a person’s life and or how he can fulfill it through happiness. I believe that utilitarianism is something valuable but I also think that there is more than just experiencing happiness. One is faith or religion and another is how a person should be sociable in its own way. Utilitarianism is should be something that we humans should believe in and we should be practicing it in our own way possible. We can not make it as a moral issue because in our lives happiness or joy is something that must be experienced in a way that they should be able to connect every action they are doing and making themselves happy and it can eventually make them have a positive outlook in life.

We should consider happiness valuable or key to our lives if it makes our whole outlook in life positive. Happiness is sometimes misunderstood, some people has their own way on acquiring happiness which tends to be wrong for others and I believe that these are essential to them but not to us, in relation to the previous article of John Mill I believe that it all boils down to respect and understanding of one’s culture. What is right to us can sometimes be wrong to others and what is right for them is sometimes wrong for us.

Furthermore, I see utilitarianism as something as a key to life. We should value our own happiness and search for it so that we can have a better understanding in life. Of course it will not always be joy and happiness in a human’s life but if at least we try then for sure the way we deal with life is better and it will all be because of happiness.

What I learned:

- How Happiness is important to a person’s life**
- Giving and taking**
- Utilitarianism is something to be valued and not debated**

Integrative Questions:

- 1. How can we make other people aware of others’ culture?**
- 2. Who is James Rachels?**
- 3. Can happiness be replaced?**
- 4. Is happiness the only thing that matters?**
- 5. Can happiness be a source of ingenuity?**

