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One-Page Assignment

One Page Assignment #3

Carl Jung says in The Undiscovered Self that a free society functions only with moral, spiritual, political and social freedoms. Jung further clarifies that universal norms, what he calls “objective values” are common to successful societies worldwide. Mankind’s inherent cherishing of these freedoms and objective values, across any successful society, couple with a right to life to comprise the core of basic human rights. Without them man simply can’t be considered free.

Developing Jung, we can ask what is right and wrong? Is morality determined by something external to the individual such as culture, religion, the law, or social norms or are standards of upright conduct something we internalize by our place in society or our interaction with society? Religion is the most obvious dictator of right behavior in relation to others. Moses brought down the commandment to not kill, and Jesus taught to turn the other cheek, conveying righteous relations and forgiveness. These universalist principles dictate pious actions to most of humanity.

There is no reason to consider brotherly love, or tolerance, patience, or humility without presupposing basic human rights as Jung asserts them in freedoms, plus a right to life, as I assert. Building on this base of basic human rights is the behavior of man in acting on them. If man is geared toward right religious devotion in relation to others, which means existing according to the peaceful precepts of the three great monotheistic religions¹, then there are universal norms embracing well over 7 billion people of our 8 or so billion on Earth. Peace is a universalist principle. Religious values, also known as spiritual principles, thus govern most of the modern world.

¹ Christianity, Islam, and Judaism

Less developed, and therefore often misunderstood societies, may still oppress women from education or stereotype them to housework and child rearing, or even slavery. Worldwide, migrant workers are treated as involuntary servants and discarded as refuse upon expiry of their useful life. Minority religious enclaves remain oppressed, nationalist governments stubbornly isolated, and worst of all globally, there is still the cataclysmic rift between the independently wealthy and everybody else.

It is this authors opinion society still functions successfully from a sociological standpoint because of the premium placed on basic human rights as outlined above and accepted in common being enforced worldwide.