

MAN

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Man Is Innately Evil and Good

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Man is Innately Evil and Good

Various philosophers have, over the years, debated whether a man is innately good or bad. Historically, this has been well illustrated by Thomas Hobbes and Jean-Jacques with their opposing thoughts on the nature and morality of man. Thomas Hobbes states that humankind is primitive and aggressive as the troll in Harry Potter. On the other hand, Rousseau states that man is innately as innocent as a puppy. However, society and technology influence the innocence in us ("Hobbes vs. Rousseau: Are we inherently evil or good? » IAI TV," 2019). This debate continues as the two philosophers have opposite perspectives. Therefore, who is right? The paper provides a detailed argument that man is innately good and evil at the same time. This paper will also outline the role of spirituality or religion in the argument.

Man is innately in between good and evil. People can be a combination of good and bad qualities. As human beings, we are born with innate goodness and innocence. However, the goodness of a man is influenced by the nature of society. Society shapes the behavior of an individual right after a baby is born. Just like Rousseau's view on the nature of man, this argument is based on a spiritual background. I believe that human beings are born with the ability to differentiate good or bad. However, this does not exempt them from being evil. Most human beings in the world lie between good behavior and extreme behaviors. At times, human beings may behave badly when egocentric impulses cause us to place our needs before the welfare of other people. In other cases, people tend to behave like saints, when empathy and compassion impel us to prioritize the needs of other people before their own (Roberts, 2016). This results in altruism and act of kindness.

According to my religion, all human beings are created as good, though they come into the world with a fallen nature; hence they are inflicted with bad behaviors. Human beings tend to

be influenced by the surrounding environment to commit bad things. People may also act in goodness as a result of what society expects them to do or as a result of the different situations that they face in life. Leaning towards Hobbes's thoughts, one can argue that human beings behave in cruel and vicious ways as they can do so. This implies that man is somehow evil and somehow good depending on the society and circumstances.

Role of Spirituality or Religion

Spirituality plays a crucial role in my argument. It is through faith that we learn that God created the universe and everything in it. Allah created both good and evil and instructed man to have control of all his creation. The man was created with a moral principle to distinguish right and wrong. The moral principle supports my argument that man can differentiate good and evil. It is through my religion that I have been able to learn and understand what is rightful and what is wrong. According to my faith, evil was created as a seed at the beginning, and it has been growing and sprouting due to human action. I thus tend to believe that human beings sin through their actions and by disobeying Allah. For instance, religious people may commit sins, too; thus, no one is a saint. People will commit serious atrocities and hide under their religion. As a result, they can be termed evil. However, if they obey Allah, they will be described as being good.

Religion shapes my thoughts on the nature and the mission of evil and good. Both good and evil get their energy from our creator (Stafford, 2013). According to traditional Muslim beliefs, good actions are meant to establish order and spirituality in the universe. On the other hand, evil actions are meant to establish a harmful kingdom that is conducive to fulfill our desires. As a believer, I understand that the objectives of good and evil are completely opposed to each other. Therefore, it is important to establish a balance between good and evil. It is ethical to respect other things that God created. This will strengthen the good actions and balance with

the increased evil that has been brought about by society and technology. It is also ethical to maintain peace and act accordingly when interacting with modern technology. With this, the good and evil will balance, leading to peace and prosperity in the world. Faith creates a sense of understanding of ethical issues in life. Religion has taught us that it is unethical to judge anyone who sins, but our Lord will judge everyone. It will thus be rightful for me to argue that man is innately somewhere between good and evil.

References

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