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Colloquium

Paper IV

Abstract

I have decided to write more about what it truly means to be human and to explore how the Daodejing relates to the choices made by the characters in Blade Runner and Watchmen. In my paper, I hope to relate how the lessons in humility and piece in the Daodejing can be related to the actions of Rick Deckard as a former Blade Runner and to why Rorschach made all the choices he did and also chose to stick by what he believed in even though it ultimately killed him at the end of the book.

Basically, in chapters 33 through 48 in the Daodejing, Laozi writes about knowledge and humility and how it relates to everybody. I noticed that this is a rather important concept that has kept reoccurring in the class. What makes someone human? What inspires choice? Why do people act the way that they do? These are all questions that Laozi wrote about in these chapters. All of these questions relates to everyone on the planet. These questions are what inspire people to make the important choices that need to be made in their lives. I feel that Laozi has a point in all this. Answering these questions as an individual is a very important part of the human experience.

This now leads me to Blade Runner. Rick Deckard had to make a choice to peruse the Replicants. He was after all a former Blade Runner. After he decided to take on the job, he began making all new choices. He had to decide what it really means to be human. He then had to decide if a Replicant who doesn't have long to live, should be allowed to extend their lives so that they may continue to exist. Deckard was faced with this during the final showdown at the end of the movie as Roy explains how memories are memories no matter who they belong to and decides to let Rick live. This brings a question that the viewer has to ask: Is it possible for something non-human to be given the rights of a human?

I then venture into Watchmen. The whole concept of personal can be applied dramatically in Rorschach's case. In the beginning of the story, after the Comedian was murdered, Rorschach took it upon himself to figure out who was behind his murder. After more murders of masked heroes and villains, he came to the conclusion that someone was out to kill all the masked heroes and villains. The story develops more when we learn more about his past and how he was abused as a child. This leads me to the conclusion the Rorschach chose to rather get back at people for his past, he sought to vindicate himself in the eyes of those who harmed him. By being a hero and doing what needs to be done no matter what, he could stand for something virtuous. He stood by this until the end where he was faced with the choice to tell the world of what has been done, or die by the hands of Dr.

Manhattan. He died knowing that he stood for something beyond himself. And in the end, his journal will tell the tale that he failed to live to tell himself.

In conclusion, Laozi's Daodejing in chapters 33 through 48 tell about how man's choice affects his humility and knowledge. I hope to describe how this applies to Rick Deckard in Blade Runner and how it applies to Rorschach in Watchmen. I also hope to draw a conclusion of how our choices effect who we are.