

Abstract

Idea or Theme and the Issue Concerning It

The main idea of my paper will be human nature. This paper will take extreme views on the importance of Darwinian selection. The main issue concerning this topic is the conflicting effects that human nature has us as a species. My thesis is going to be along the lines of, "human nature is currently having an adverse and impeding effect on the development and advancement of humans as a species."

Arguments on Each Side of the Issue [Human nature is a...]

...*Long term issue for the human race*: Natural selection has allowed us to develop to the species we are today, but our human nature aims to stop this natural selection from happening. This is effectively curtailing the evolution of our species. Nature has many ways in which it regulates itself, and things like antibiotics and genetically modified plants and animals for our consumption [*Omnivore's Dilemma*] are effectively canceling the regulating effect that nature forces upon us. Natural selection can be seen at work in forests where wildfire's run rampant and destroy the landscape. This fire is actually a part of the life cycle of the forest. By letting our human nature stop things which could have the same renewing effect on our species as the fires have on forests, we are dooming the human race to genetic de-evolution and regression as a species.

Our human nature can also be seen in our emotions. Our moral obligation to protect our own is hurting the human race. The emotion which tells us that every single person should be protected from nature overrides the logical argument which tells us that natural selection is a good thing for our race. If we don't take all possible steps to negate natural selection, we have emotional reactions to that. An example to illustrate this point is modern medicine. Misuse of antibiotics is slowly creating drug resistant germs which could eventually wipe out our entire race. If a wild animal, whose species has been around much longer than humans, gets sick, they don't have modern medicines to protect them. The animals with weaker immune systems die off, and only the stronger ones are able to reproduce. Human emotion has hindered the genetic advancement of our species because our fundamental nature tells us to use every tool at our disposal to protect others.

May also talk about: War, Crime, Greed, Adolescence

...*Short term protector of the human race*: These emotions described above actually have many benefits in the short run. We are protected from a lot of dangers each day because of this aspect of human nature. We all benefit from the instinctual drive to protect loved ones. Our social customs and our care for other's opinions help us to make smarter decisions each day. Things like the development of modern medicine is something we all benefit greatly from, and the passion to develop this medicine is only present because of our human nature.

Proposed Solution

The “Way” described in the *Daodejing* aims to solve many of the problems stated above, while still keeping many of the positive benefits of human nature. It is truly the best of both sides because it allows us to keep many of our beneficial tendencies, but it still weaves natural selection into our attitudes. This equilibrium stance is the best solution for the human race. The idea of contentment introduced by the *Daodejing* best represents a mindset which would allow humans to begin following the “Way”. In chapter 33, the *Daodejing* states that “Those who know contentment are rich” (33). I would say that Dr. Manhattan from *The Watchman* follows the “Way” very well and is a beacon of contentment. Dr. Manhattan is an extreme case of this idea, but we are just as extreme on the other side of the same spectrum. We should aim, as a global community, to move our mindsets closer the how Dr. Manhattan thinks, because that will vastly benefit our quality of life and the longevity of the human race.