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Abstract Paper

In my paper I will discuss why ambition and desire can be a bad thing especially when one does not have the wisdom to direct their selves onto a good path. In "The Power and the Glory", "Meno", and "The Daodjing of Laozi" one is given examples of exactly how things can take a turn for the worst. Anyone can go too far and become harmful, either to others or even themselves, when they for their desires, which is why it is crucial to have wisdom to keep oneself from being a harmful person. There are character in these stories that show wisdom is extremely important to help guide one along through life.

Throughout the first third of my paper, I would like to discuss the way the Lieutenant in "The Power and the Glory" has a misguided mentality in trying to better people's lives by killing off every single priest in Mexico. After elaborating on what kind of misguided ambition the Lieutenant has I will discuss the parallels between the Lieutenant and a character that had the same mindset but on a more extreme scale, Adolf Hitler. The main comparison of these two people would be how their ambition drives them to do incredible things, awful and inhumane, but they are big accomplishments. After discussing "The Power and the Glory" I would begin to talk about the way, the character Meno in "Meno" the dialogue, who also has a misguided mentality of doing what is right and what is best for the people. Then I would begin discussing how Meno lacks wisdom and for that same reason he leads himself to thinking that Socrates is a bad person and eventually sentences him to be executed, which isn't the right thing to do at all. Then I would parallel Meno all the judges in contemporary times that sentence people to jail or worse for unjustified reasons. Last I would like to include some of chapters from "The Daodejing of Laozi" to support that desires and ambition are bad things, but I would also like to argue the fact that two things are only bad iff wisdom is not present.