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Enduring Questions

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Uncommon

The argument I would like to make is that the uncommon or unfamiliar is unwelcome, and though these things are unwelcome, they are necessary. They are necessary because they better us as a civilization. I will use Socrates, *The Watchmen*, and *Gilgamesh* in order to make my argument. This argument will partially be a continuation of an argument that I've made with a previous EQ paper. The argument will be based on the fact that the acknowledgement and acceptance of the uncommon or unfamiliar allow us to be a stronger, more well-rounded, more enlightened and all around better human race.

My use of Socrates will be based upon his description of the cave, where prisoners are held. This example will first be used to explain how we are so unwelcoming to the unfamiliar. Socrates explains that a man that has descended again, after ascending would be blatantly changed. This uncommon change, through Socrates' eyes, would cause the other prisoners to act irrationally toward the returning prisoner. This is evidence that the unfamiliar, new, or uncommon is unwelcome. However, Socrates explains that a process of diffusion of new information is necessary in order to achieve and maintain an ideal state.

Gilgamesh will be another explanation of how much we can benefit from the uncommon or unwelcome. Inkidu and Gilgamesh's relation will illustrate this point step for step. Inkidu was unwelcome and fought by Gilgamesh at first. But once Gilgamesh realized that a benefit could be brought about by an alliance with Inkidu they embraced one another. The benefit was obvious; Gilgamesh and Inkidu conquered plenty that Gilgamesh could not have when he was alone.

The Watchmen will help show positives and negatives of the uncommon being acceptance. The heroes were obviously unwelcome. They had good intentions despite the public disdain for them. They did fight to achieve a goal that could be thought to be good by many. However, many of the heroes had questionable morals and attempted to achieve their goals by extreme and drastic means. This will help lead into the counter-argument that the uncommon is unwelcome and thus necessarily unnecessary.

The Daodejing will be a supporting work that will show that something uncommon is unnecessary for life on earth. A daoist would argue that the presence of something uncommon should not be forcibly accepted. The argument would show that a good or benefit could be easily achieved without the presence of something new or uncommon.