

Friday, November 22, 2019

Wade Williams, Journal Entry 5, *Utilitarianism*

I particularly enjoyed reading the material John Stuart Mill, because I can relate to many points that he wrote about. I think about modern society on a daily basis, and I often attempt to comprehend the weird human world I live in. Money is somehow directly associated with happiness, and nature and the environment are mere means for our pleasure or enjoyment. From my limited observations, so many people around me portray characteristics of being self-obsessed, and generally accepting of the society they live in. However, I have many criticisms for the society I live in, and each day I commit an action that most people comfortable with society would view as strange. For example, I will ride my bike to work instead of driving. I will stop when I am walking on a path and go out of my way to pick up litter. Most people do not participate in actions like these, because society dictates that somebody else will take care of problems.

Another observation is that many people seem to chase a “nearer good” that may be less quality than a good that they could have waited for. I do not understand how people’s characters can be broken down to be so weak. Also, Mill states that younger men with noble intentions succumb to selfishness and low quality pleasure, because of hostile influences or an unfavorable society. I view myself as a younger man with noble intentions, and I have to wonder how I will overcome the challenges of an unfavorable occupation and society, to live a long life as a noble and good person. I believe that the pleasure of gaining knowledge and exercising use of that knowledge is a much higher quality happiness, then simply deriving pleasure from sex or drugs. My mission in life is to infinite improvement of self, nature, and knowledge.