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Writing Assignment #2: Shahnameh and Inferno

Various genres of Art and literature are filled with the concept of pain and human suffering. Shahnameh is a literary masterpiece that demonstrates the insightful concept of human suffering and mortality. Written by a famous poet “Abu’s- Qasim Ferdowsi," the center of the poem on the life of the famous kings and their heroic tales along with the historical civilization of the Iranian government. The key pain and suffering conceptualized in the Shahnameh is death (Sadeghi). It is shown to be inevitable, and it cannot be negotiated. It even leaves tears in the eyes of those who accept it at their earliest. It is considered to be the permanent suffering in the world, followed by the life where the person is going to reap what he sows. These sufferings are utterly heartbreaking such as the suffering of leaving your loved ones behind and accepting grave as your new home. Leaving your things behind and stepping into the afterlife are the major concerns. The realization that you still have deepest desires embedded in your heart, and you are leaving without achieving them is utterly disturbing. This is the concept that brings tragedy to death (Sadeghi). One of the characters that have been shown to be most suffered by this tragedy of death is Rustom. He was a king with a heroic ability but ended up killing his son unconsciously. Although the poet takes the concept of death and suffering as extreme sorrow, he believes that it is, in fact, a part of the human’s life. No one can deny it. In his poem, he criticizes the world that his youth bought him a complete joy, but when he got old, he felt weak and conquerable.

Although death is the inevitable reality of everyone and everything, its amplitude will be different for everyone. Some may suffer that pain in a different way than the other. Poet says that man is trying to hoard the wealth without considering the fact it will be left in this world without him. The only way to deal with this suffering is to accept the reality of it and acknowledge that he will ultimately have to surrender to it.

Another amazing piece of literature that demonstrates the human suffering is Dante's "Inferno." It explains the reasons for human suffering. It depicts that human sufferings are the consequences of choices that are made in life. The universal truth about the human condition is suffering, that is inevitable. One of the characters in a poem is “Capaneus," who suffers from punishment as a consequence of disobedience (Alighieri). He was struck down by a Zeus for refusing to believe in a prophecy that he would not conquer the city of Thebes. His anger turns into his punishment as a result of his ignorance. He remained disobedient of Gods and was thrown in the bottom of the hell with other cursers. Throughout the story, Cuperous was believed to show extreme stubbornness and denied his faults. As a result of this stubbornness, he was subjected to ultimate suffering (Alighieri). Dante portrays suffering not only as a means of further causing more pain to us but also learning experiences as a result of those suffering. When we suffer, we are given an ultimate chance of learning from those misfortunes. It serves as a caution. But if we refuse to acknowledge and accept our mistakes, we ultimately surrender ourselves to the stubbornness. In this way, it turns into a punishment that is depicted in the poem "Inferno."It helps to demonstrate the grief that comes with not accepting our mistakes.

**Works Cited**

Alighieri, Dante. *The Divine Comedy*. G. Routledge, 1891.

Sadeghi, Masoumeh. “A Comparative Study of the Story of Esfandiar in Ferdowsi’s Shahnameh and Achilles in Homer’s Iliad.” *Journal of Educational and Social Research*, vol. 3, no. 7, Sept. 2013, p. 550.