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Western Philosophy: Observe Whether People Engage for Reasoning?

Sometimes the world around us isn’t intellectual stimulating by itself. We want to expand on what we already experience by thinking in an unconventional way. We want to feel connected to our world yet separate from the meaningless practices that we do day to day. People may want to think about the “why” surrounding their lives and the things beyond them.

If a closer look at the breakdown of the word “philosophy” is given from its Latin and Greek origin, “phylos” meaning love and “Sophie” meaning wisdom. It’s the love for wisdom. Hence the search is not necessarily for the answers but for one’s own intellectual growth. This is a deep human desire. Philosophical contemplation can happen by accident even. Someone could just be observing their surroundings, and slowly the thoughts begin to develop that “why”. This usually happens when the minds are idle and people are able to reach farther with their deepest thoughts.

Hence, people engage in it to feel connected to the world yet still free to roam their most abstract thoughts surrounding the universe. They feel satisfied and wanting more after thinking philosophically. It humbles a person when they think about how extraordinary and insignificant the human species is (Paxton). In general, the reasons are driven mainly by curiosity, which is motivated by evolution. Therefore, by biological design, achieving a piece of knowledge about the previously unknown causes a sense of pleasure.

Sometimes, people aim for the ideal ultimate pleasure of the absolute knowledge impulsively. This results in the desire to understand generalities and in general impression that such generalities carry some kind of mysticism. Once such generalities or incapacities are understood in terms of achieving these ones, it is undeniable that such mysticisms are simply triviality in a disguised form. In addition to this, the sense of mysticism is, respectively, simply due to a person's incapacity of storing mentally a large string of tautologies or due to ambiguities of the language.

Works Cited:

Paxton, Joseph M., and Joshua D. Greene. "Moral reasoning: Hints and allegations." *Topics in cognitive science* 2.3 (2010): 511-527.