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Being Human

The notion related to being human has been discussed over the years by various thinkers most of whom have had differing views relating to humanity. Understanding different concepts of the human life are important, as they provide an understanding relating to human nature. One aspect of humanity that describes the feeling of being human includes the modes of consciousness that exist in humanity and the freedom of choice. From the description provided, it is clear that human beings have a higher level of consciousness compared to other animals. In addition, human beings tend to have the freedom of choosing between right and wrong regardless of circumstances. However, other thinkers argue that the feeling of human beings refers to a sense of belonging provided in different scenarios. In most cases, individuals living and working in a society work towards achieving a higher rate of recognition, which is important in providing the expected sense of belonging. In addition, individuals within a society identify themselves depending on their diversities thereby providing them with a sense of comfort. Alternatively, human beings also believe in the need for purpose identification. Identifying one's purpose creates the feeling of wholeness, which increases the satisfaction levels significantly. In most cases, purpose identification creates an opportunity for acceptance into a society regardless of the differences that may exist.

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Thinkers focus on understanding the cultural perception provided to help understand the notion of humanity. The differing notions of humanity result from different understandings of human nature, which, in turn, contribute to the differing conclusions. In addition, the differing notions also arise from the degree of awareness within the human state and nature, which defines the human beings' level of responsibility depending on their actions. The degree of awareness refers to the consciousness of human beings within different environments. The two thinkers that present viable conclusions relating to human nature are Thomas Hobbes of Malmesbury and Jean-Jacques Rousseau. These two thinkers develop different conceptions relating to human nature, which indicate their differing notions and descriptions of the human life. In some aspects, the two thinkers present same views relating to humanity but differ when describing the forces contributing to becoming human. Hobbes focuses on the primary nature of human beings, which provides an outline of the human state of mind. On the other hand, Rousseau focuses on providing an account of the human state, which is an important step towards understanding the definition of humanity. The similarity between the two thinkers arises from their understanding of human beings in civil societies, which indicates that humans require social connections to foster growth and development.

Thomas Hobbes, a world-renowned philosopher, describes human beings, as an important part of the world, as they have the mandate of taking care of the environment to avoid any damages. He defines the idea of being as a desire for self-preservation. Individuals understand the need for self-preservation, as this will contribute towards self-satisfaction and fulfillment of expectations. Alternatively, he points out that the feeling of human beings is the desire developed when one intends to pursue one's interests, which determines the level of satisfaction achieved. Hobbes describes human beings in the state of nature using three

distinctive human principles. Firstly, he argues that human beings are highly motivated towards competition, as competition contributes towards the provision of greater power. Hobbes describes the human state of nature as highly competitive, as every individual in a society intends to gain more when compared to others thereby creating competition. Secondly, he points out that the human state of nature is also driven by diffident referring to a high level of insecurity that an individual may have prompting them towards defending their possessions regardless of the circumstances they face. Lastly, he defines human nature as highly motivated by glory, whereby individuals in the same society work towards seeking glory from others. He argues that glory is an important aspect in shaping an individual's reputation.

Hobbes believes that every human being has his or her own freedom to choose in the pursuit of one's interests. He represents the freedom of choice as a natural right that human beings can afford regardless of their status within a society. To help describe his notion of a human being, Hobbes uses the social contract theory that creates an interest in human transition from the state of nature to the civil society. In most cases, human beings belong to a state of nature that preserves their wellbeing and protection from religion and laws. In addition, Hobbes also describes the state of nature as a time that does not focus on the systems of morality implemented. The transition of human beings from the state of nature to civil society creates an opportunity for individuals to gain a sense of living within a society governed by laws and norms. The transition also creates a sense of security in human beings thanks to the stability achieved from the laws and norms that advocate for freedom and equality. However, he points out that the laws and norms identified promote the occurrence of differences while living in a society, which affects social cohesion. Hobbes provides vivid descriptions that refer to human beings with the descriptions providing an understanding of what it means to be human.

In turn, Jean-Jacques Rousseau also describes the notion of being human by outlining various factors that exist in the human state of mind. He argues that these factors play an essential role in defining what it means to be a human being. Rousseau defines a human being as a self-reliant and compassionate being. Unlike the previous notion provided, Rousseau believes that the provision of civil society has contributed towards corrupting the basic goodness in the mind of human beings, which affects social cohesion. He argues that the introduction of humans into the society contribute towards increased brain corruption leading to violence among human beings in different societies. Rousseau argues that the state of human nature refers to a state of peace for every human being where one can move when facing challenges. He argues that every human being has a state of peace in his or her life, which creates a sense of wholeness and satisfaction. In addition, he argues that human beings do not focus on competition but rather on ensuring stability in society, which will help ensure success for every individual. His argument relating to competition differs to that provided by Hobbes who indicates that the human competitive nature is important for increasing social wellbeing, which is not the case as indicated by Rousseau.

Rousseau outlines two significant aspects of being human to help support his argument. These aspects refer to different accounts of the state of nature experienced by human beings. Firstly, he focuses his discussion on providing vivid descriptions of the state of human being. He points out that every human being has basic equality level, which promotes his or her value in society regardless of the diversities that may exist. Rousseau argues that the provision of basic equality for every individual creates an opportunity for interaction and opportunities. In addition, he points out that equality can contribute towards peace and contentment within the context of state of nature. Consequently, this means that Rousseau believes that equality is connected to the

state of nature where every human being can achieve peace and satisfaction. Secondly, he provides an account of the transformation of the state of nature of human beings that result from the provision of private property. Rousseau argues that the introduction of private property affected the basic elements of human beings that include self-reliance. He indicates that human beings require one another for survival, as opposed to the previous case where a human being is self-reliant for survival. Rousseau also indicates that the provision of private property creates a barrier for human beings to move back to the state of nature.

From the discussion provided by the two thinkers, it is clear that Jean Jacques Rousseau offers an accurate description of human being and the real life when compared to the description provided by Thomas Hobbes. Rousseau faults some of the descriptions provided by Hobbes and argues that they do not represent the realistic conception of human nature. In addition, he argues that the descriptions provided by Hobbes relating to the human state of nature may not be as accurate as presented. Hobbes argues that the state of nature is motivated by competition, whereas Rousseau points out that the state of nature focuses on peace, satisfaction, and contentment. Rousseau provides real life descriptions relating to the state of nature for human being, which indicates that he believes in the description provided. Alternatively, Hobbes provides a description of human being in terms of civil society and argues that human beings work towards attaining recognition. Rousseau, on the other hand, argues that human being is self-reliant and does not require the support of others in a society to determine the level of success achieved. The description provided by Rousseau represents a clear picture of the current conditions of human beings in the society, whose members believe in self-reliance as a component of their development process.

Rousseau points out that the inclusion civil societies have contributed towards the corruption of goodness within human being. Naturally, a human being is described as a being with moral principles that govern his or her interaction with others. However, a review of the current society shows that human beings are losing moral principles based on the behaviors experienced, which indicates that Rousseau's description is accurate. Another major factor that indicates that Rousseau has an accurate description is the account of the transformation of the state of nature of human being he provides. He indicates that although human beings are self-reliant, the provision of private property contributes towards increasing the possibilities of reducing the high rate of self-reliance. A review of the current state in societies indicates that individuals cannot fully rely on themselves for everything. Consequently, they require interacting with others in the same community, which will help improve their rate of development. The description provided by Rousseau relating to difficulties that human beings may face when moving back to the state of nature also proves the accuracy of Rousseau's ideas. The reducing rate of self-reliance affects people's abilities to move back to the state of nature, as human beings become intertwined with other people in their society.

Various thinkers have come up with different notions explaining what it means to be a human being. The differing notions have created different explanations relating to the state of nature of being human. According to Hobbes, the nature of human beings is highly motivated by increased competition with the aim of gaining recognition. Hobbes describes the idea of being human as having a desire for self-preservation. In addition, he points out that a human being is driven by his or her own interest towards achieving satisfaction. Hobbes also argues that every human being has the free will and describes this as a natural right peculiar to every individual. He uses the social contrast theory to support his argument relating to the human transition from

the state of nature to the civil society. Jean Jacques Rousseau, on the other hand, defines a human being a self-reliant and compassionate being. In addition, he argues that the state of nature refers to the state of peace achieved by every person regardless of the conditions he or she may face. Alternatively, he argues that every human being has basic equality levels that contribute towards improving interactions. From the descriptions provided by the two thinkers, it is clear that Jean Jacques Rousseau provides an accurate account of the real life scenarios in contemporary society.