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English 1 Period 5

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Dante's Inferno Analytical Essay

Dante's Inferno mainly talks about the circles of hell. The circle that we will focus on is the seventh which is violence. Violence can be seen as many different ways and ideas but through the phrase "Violent Against Art"(Dante's Inferno) it is referred to as violence and the corruption of money. Then we refer to the fact that the seventh circle is split into three individual circles. The outer circle is for those that did violence to others, the middle circle is for those that did violence to themselves, and then the inner circle is for blasphemers and sodomites. We will start with the outer ring which houses those that did violence against others.

The outer ring of the seventh circle of hell is where those that do harm to others are kept. Murder is a high crime which in California is first met with a ranging amount of years in prison and then the second offense is met with life in prison with no chance of parole to the highest price which is death. In hell the guardian is most likely the Minotaur whose life from life to death contained violence in some form. One form of violence that would fall under the outer ring of the seventh layer is the shooting of seventeen year old Laquan McDonald whose case was solved four hundred days after the incident had occurred. What had happened is that he was shot and killed by a police officer that had no reason to shoot or kill him and is being faced with first degree murder. Even though he was finally caught most people were outraged that it took so

long to finally prove what had happened most people that were nearby on the night that the incident

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occurred even went forward saying that after the shooting they saw the police officer go into the nearby store and tell the owner to delete the recordings of the night.

The middle ring of the circle of violence is where those that committed suicide are housed. One case that would be viewed to be at this level would be the suicide of thirteen year old Megan Meier who committed suicide due to cyber bullying. Megan had struggled with attention deficit disorder, along with depression and her weight. The event that led to her death happened that led to the event occurred over a period of five weeks. What had happened is that a sixteen year old boy named Josh Evans who asked Megan to be friends with him on the social media MySpace. The event that led to her death is that during mid October what had started is that Josh told her that he no longer wanted to be friends and his messages to her started to become more cruel. The final things that pushed her to kill herself is that Josh ended telling her "The world would be a better place without you." Then also the bullying escalated with some of her classmates sending hurtful messages and bulletins. On the foundation website that Tina Meier started after the incident(Megan Meier Foundation) she said that it was twenty minutes after Megan left the computer that her mother had found out that Megan had hung herself in her closet. This is an incident that would lead the person to be put into the middle ring of the seventh layer of hell but if you think about it she was stuck in an awful place where she was plagued with disorders and she was being put through a horrible time in her life. So if she is punished for what happened to her then maybe everything is wrong and we need to rethink everything we believe.

The inner ring of the seventh layer of hell is where those that did violence against god reside. Since blasphemy is the violence against god many people would go to believe that all atheist are guilty of blasphemy but quoting George Bernard Shaw "All great truths begin as blasphemy"(BrainyQuotes.com) if blasphemy were a true crime then all the great minds of time

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would be destined to the inner ring of the seventh ring circle but if that is true that no one would be using the great inventions they have brought to us. Sure some were worse than others mostly the atomic bomb which was a great devastation for everyone. One such case of blasphemy that occurred was the case of Aasiya Noreen who was convicted of blasphemy on June 2009 and then put to death on November 2010 by hanging. The event that led to this occurred because one day when she was harvesting falsa berries. What had happened is that some of the women that she was working with told her to get water from the nearby well and on the way there she found an old metal cup and stopped at the well to drink then one of her neighbors that saw her angrily told her that it was forbidden for a Christian to drink from the same utensil as a muslim immediately all of her fellow workers said she was unclean because she herself was Christian. The argument ended with the fellow workers making derogatory and her saying to them "I believe in my religion and in Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for the sins of mankind. What did your Prophet Mohammed ever do to save mankind?" It then proceeded to so of the workers telling a cleric that Noreen insulted Mohammed and it escalated to a mob going to her house and beating Noreen and her family. It ended with the police having to save them. After the mob the police investigated into what happened and she was arrested shortly after and imprisoned for a year until they finally gave her a sentence to death.

If the seventh circle of hell is like this then why are some crimes like suicide frowned upon if a person like Megan whose life was so awful should they be punished so highly for only them

thinking they only have one way out. I would disagree with this statement that she should be rewarded after death for the terrible life she lived during her time alive. Then we also have all the blasphemers who if you are to think about it would be every great thinker in the world. Sure some great thinkers had some dark times were their inventions were not the best but they tried after to

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make everything better for what they have done. So now maybe we should be rethinking about all the religions in the world and not just say that the fault of the world is because of one religion.