

## **THEMES APPLIED IN THE MOVIE BLACK PANTHER THAT APPLY TO CONCEPTS OF ETHICS**

The writers and directors of the film, Black Panther, were not shy of clearly integrating ethical concepts into the film. The action-packed film is not only entertaining to its viewers but is also filled with aspects of ethics such as: morality, virtues, human acts, conscience, and freedom just but to name a few.

First off, morality can be defined as the goodness or badness of human acts, or in other words, the values in which people hold that helps them distinct from what is good and what is bad. In the film, the character Nakia clearly depicts this concept. Nakia upholds her moral standards when she pardons the bandit who was involved in the kidnapping of the young girls since he was a small boy and a victim of kidnapping and was not evil in himself and she allows the bandit to go home to his family. From that scenario we can clearly tell that Nakia has morality and that her action contained moral goodness.

Another moral concept applied in the film is virtues, these are the acts that people do that are presumed to be good. Virtues are clearly brought out in the film by the Black panther, T'challa, who throughout the film is seen fighting for a good cause. He rescues the kidnapped girls from the bandits and is also seen fighting Killmonger to restore peace in Wakanda. From these actions T'challa has virtues.

In addition to that, another concept of ethics applied in the film is freedom. Freedom can be defined as the capacity to choose and make judgement. From the film there are numerous instances of freedom but the one that stands out the most is the freedom exercised by Mbaku. After the overthrowing of T'challa by Killmonger, the queen mother sought refuge at Mbaku's palace and she, together with Nakia offered Mbaku the black panther powers so that he could save them. He however declined the offer, and the powers were given to T'challa instead. Here Mbaku clearly exercises his fundamental freedom, and he chooses good.

Moreover, another concept of ethics applied in the film is conscience, which is a judgement of reason whereby the human person chooses between right and wrong. The aspect of conscience is brought about by Killmonger where he clearly portrays Lax conscience, which means one sees no sin where there is sin. Killmonger intends to set up nuclear warheads around states that had

initially colonized Africa and attack them since he now has superior weapons. This however is not right since waging war will cost the lives of innocent people and the greater result will not be morally good.

Lastly, another concept of ethics applied in the film is, Human Acts which is the actions of man that are done knowingly, freely and with responsibility. Human acts are portrayed throughout the film by all the characters with the main act being fighting, which is clearly depicted by the black panther, T'Challa who is seen fighting Mbaku for the throne and fighting Killmonger to a title challenge and to restore his position as king of Wakanda.

Overall, the film, Black Panther is quite nice and is full of ethical concepts.