

Justin Dyer

Spiritual Development

The link in the assignment to the TED Talk did not work but I found the video:

https://www.ted.com/talks/wade_davis_the_worldwide_web_of_belief_and_ritual

As a reflection on the TED Talk video, I thought it was interesting; however, it was very hard to understand and follow, as Davis talked very fast with complex, foreign words. I found two things to be interesting. First, the comfort of isolation and solitude of the culture that Davis describes; and secondly, the determination and persistence of the culture's religion and culture. As I reflected on the video, these stood out to me and I would like to share their meaning and value to me.

The comfort of isolation and solitude of the culture that Davis describes in his TED Talk surprised me. This group of people live in solitude in a mountain region. They do not indulge themselves with technology, money, or any modern attributes that we value in our daily lives. In the video, Davis displays an image of these people in a city built near their land, and it could not be more obvious that they did not fit into the setting. With this in mind, I would presume that the people would be tempted or desire to take part in our modern culture; however, they appeared to be comfortable right where they were. Even the children living in this community would most likely go their entire lives without seeing a tv screen or any type of digital environment. The community is comfortable, however. They are comfortable in their beliefs and religion, and trust that what they are focused on has value.

The value of this community's religion prevails in many aspects of their culture. For starters, the commitment one would need to live in an environment such as this, with cities nearby, would have to be astounding. With children living in solitude in one area of their community, community members only socializing with limited people in their group, never even seeing anything beyond the region that in which they reside, it makes one feel insecure with the lack of commitment to work out in their daily lives. Despite the hardships that the religion has faced and the troubles of the modern "concrete world" expanding to kilometers away from their homes, this community and religion still focuses on their mission. No matter the struggle, Davis states that they are still persistent to pray for the entire world, daily. That includes those in which oppress their land to build casinos and hotels.

In conclusion I would say I am jealous. Or that, I am disappointed in my own life, not having even close to the commitment to a cause as such as the community discussed in Davis's TED talk.