

Annie Tan

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Mrs. Frisbie

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### What Makes Us Human?

Humanity, we are humans, but what makes us human? What sets humanity apart from the world? From Gilgamesh and Enkidu, to Emperor Qin, to the Silk Road, to Athens and Sparta, to the Civil War. These are very important parts of humanity's history, showing how humanity is different from everything else and every other species around the world.

Gilgamesh, the all mighty hero of men. But, why did Gilgamesh want to be the 'hero of men'/King Gilgamesh? It states on Chapter 1 of *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, “‘King Gilgamesh has more wisdom than most.’” Which states that even before the adventure, Gilgamesh is already honored. The epic also proves that Gilgamesh is truly wanting to be famous. And that is his main goal. In Chapter 3, “‘Then we'll die gloriously, won't we? And our names will be written in clouds of glory on the noonday sky!...Fame is everything, Enkidu, isn't it?’” This truly shows that Gilgamesh is doing all these good things for fame and power. Although it appears that he is trying to help the city and the community, in the end it is for the power and the fame.

Power, fame, and wealth is what many people think of before making a move. Emperor Qin was a great leader who had domained the Qin dynasty and gave it its name. Qin had standardized money and united China. All of these things seem to be good on the outside, but Qin had done these things not only to unite China but to be famous and for everyone in any dynasty to remember him. He certainly got there. Again this concept is shown on the Silk Road.

Many traders traded because they wanted goods that would benefit them or their nation. They weren't thinking about what would help boost another country or person, they were thinking of getting a better deal than the other trader would like to pay.

During Athens and Sparta, Sparta had attacked Athens because they had wanted some of that fame and wealth from the Persian war. They did this not to benefit Athens, but only to benefit them. Even though in the Persian war Sparta had helped Athens, Sparta was doing this deed in order to get this fame. Sparta wasn't thinking about how this will only help Athens, they are thinking about what is in for them. On the other hand, Athens was also thinking about what was in there for them; they weren't thinking about the benefits and the chances of them surviving if Sparta came.

This concept is also proven in the Civil War. When the Southern states left the Union all they were thinking about was how it would hurt them so they pulled away. Union, on the other hand, was wanting to stay because it benefited them more. The more each side tries to comply with their own needs, the more tension there is between the sides. Especially in this case. The more each side tries to stay with their own ideas, the more the tensions will grow, this is because the south supported slavery and the north was against it. The more the south thought about protecting slavery, the more they were angered to defeat the north.

Many might think that this could not possibly apply to all humans of all races, in all times. It does. No matter where we are, what time that we live in, humans will forever be selfish. For example, today, during COVID-19 many people are hoarding stuff. That is an obvious sign of selfishness. Another way is that people will go out and riot and burn buildings, they do this not because they have something against the owner, but because they want attention from the

government and the news media. The most common sense of selfishness is when it seems nice. In MME, for example, someone might pick up the trash of someone who hadn't. A teacher praises them. The student is most likely doing this for two things. They could be doing this because they want a clean school. This is their school, they might not care if it isn't their school. The other option would be that the student is doing this in order to receive praise from the teachers. They are thinking about how they can be good in the eyes of the teachers and the staff.

In conclusion, throughout history, humanity has gone through many changes from the currency that we use, to the thoughts that we think. Many, or all of these thoughts are directed towards either directly or indirectly affecting and helping that person. This is human nature. As we have evolved, our sense of selfishness has become more complex. In the beginning, you would directly show that you are selfish in order to get food or the supplies that you need. Now, even the nicest deed could be for the good of that person. Humanity can not be changed whether you are young, or old. It is the same. That is what makes us human.