

Kristine Draper

College English 112

Professor Andrews-Parker

29 April 2015

### History and Culture: Breaking the Laws of Reality

Since we cannot change reality, let us change the eyes that see reality.

Skeptics are everywhere because life is full of them, skeptics who don't believe in what they can't see. Who are the skeptics to say what is been seen is true? Who are the believers to say what the skeptics are seeing isn't right? Because reality is something that everybody sees differently. In the narrative Allegory of the Cave by Plato, Plato writes about a man who sees shadows and all he has know for the longest of time is the shadows but what were to happen if the man turned around to see what was casting the shadows? For what is the real nature of reality when all that is know is the illusion of what is seen? Why can't it be that the reality is what you make of it, since reality is ever changing and everybody has there own definition of what reality is.

It is not reality that shapes us but the lens through which your brain views the world that shapes your reality. In Allegory of the Cave the man except the statues for what they represent his reality. He has grown up in the cave watching shadows along the wall of the cave. The shadows were a phenomenon he has accepted as a reality while he was in the cave. It was the chains he had that kept him grounded to that specific reality because he was unable to move. Isn't it better to be with the familiar because it is safe then the unknown because you do not know of the danger it holds. "When he approaches

the light his eyes will be dazzled, and he will not be able to see anything at all of what are now called realities". He is not used to see the light he is used to see anything but the shadows. It is hard to grow accustomed to something you have never before experienced, because it is almost impossible to change something that has been beaten into your brain, just like it is impossible to change the stripes on a zebra. He is like an animal caught in the headlight of a car. He is startled by what he sees. At first his brain is not able to comprehend what he sees so he sees nothing but darkness because he has been in the dark for so long. His reality the one he has known all his life disappeared like water in the air. But his eyes are now fully open he is now able to see his real reality the truth the sun.

Sometimes to find reality you have to first look for the truth. Plato believed that truth in reality is not found in the senses. Reality is not about being able to taste touch see or hear something it is about how strongly you believe in it. Plato believed in universal truth. Plato thought that the soul was universal he believed it to be the truth. He says that the body interferes with the soul's ability to sense reality to sense the truth. He believed in the fact that death should not be feared because it frees the souls from the chains of the body allowing the soul to see reality at its purest form.

We live in a fantasy world, a world of illusion. The great task in life is to find reality. The man in the Allegory of the Cave the man is unsure because this reality he is now in is not something he had time to get used to. He is taken out of one existence and put into another. His reality the shadows the cave the changes were taken away from him. Now that he is able to see the shadows he realizes the objects the statues are the real thing his real reality compared to his imaginary reality of the shadows he was seeing. Change can be scary but it is curiosity that helps us make it through the change. It is because he

accepts his the statues the fire as the truth that he as an individual was able to change his reality to see it in a different way.

How can we define reality-fit it into a box so that whatever experiments we throw at it, our definition always holds true? Rebecca Turner is a 31-year-old journalist and lucid dreamer. She is aware that she is dreaming. Dreams are mysterious; it is the subconscious mind way of telling something that the conscious mind cannot make sense of. Dreams can be straight to the point or abstract nothing is ever really clear in a dream. But a dream is another perception of reality just shown in a different way. Turner argues that lucid dreams are a part of her reality. She ask question like how many different reality are there, she agrees with Einstein who says that reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one, by saying is every form of reality merely an illusion? Is nothing real? Turner says that all probabilities exist at once that there are many realities in side one reality. No two brains perceive reality the same way. The right hemisphere of your brain learns through kinesthetic motions of your body. It absorbs energy from the world around you transforming it into information, while the left hemisphere of your brain thinks logically and methodically it picks out details from the past so it can make calculations about the future. Turner says if the human brain were to evolved with the functions of the right hemisphere than the perception of reality would be different. Because of that the person would basically have no reality to relate to because the person has no real identity. There are infinite realities so there would be more than one interpretation; reality is something that has no true definition it is about what you believe your reality to be. Reality is what shapes you gives you purpose it is what makes you, you.

Reality leaves a lot to the imagination. Michael Nugent an Irish and activist writer says nothing can be known with certainty. He says what do we know about reality. How can we say something is right or wrong if we have no way to prove it? He can make assumptions he can interpret the universe, but what way does he have of knowing if he is correct. Nugent says that there are at least five possible theories on reality. Everything that exist or that is believe to exist can merely just be an illusion. What he is trying to say is what is being seen might not actually be there. Our thoughts seem to exist independently. You touch something and you feel it you believe it is there, but there can also be the strong possible that is actually isn't there. You believe in it so strongly it become real. Your mind is a very powerful tool it can be used as a weapon against yourself. If you were to believe in something so strongly then your imagination would project what you believe you are seeing. It is like a simple magic trick you put a bunny in a box you close the box and open it the bunny is gone. So in your reality you think the bunny has disappeared but to the performer it is simply a cheap parlor trick. You put a mirror in front of the bunny so it will reflect one side of the box so the box appears to be empty but in reality it is just hidden it did not disappear you just couldn't see it.

Finally reality is what you as an individual make of it. Like Allegory in the Cave there is no right or wrong there is just reality. Everybody has their own definition their own vision of what reality is. Like in Allegory of the Cave his vision his reality was the shadows but after seeing the sun for the first time he came to know it as the truth as it is his real reality. As Turner says there are infinite realities and it is all about the way you interpret it. Nugent says everything that exist or believed to have existed can all be an illusion, which in turn can be someone's reality.



Works Cited

- Cohen, Samuel S. "Allegory in the Cave." *50 Essays: A Portable Anthology*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007. 303-11. Print.
- Nugent, Michel. "Five Possible Theories of Reality." *Michael Nugent RSS*. 2008. Web. 21 May 2015.
- Turner, Rebecca. "Reality Lucid Dreaming." *About Rebecca Turner*. Web. 21 May 2015.