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Humans are Dependent Upon Their Brain

Humans are special beings. They have many advantages over all the other species in the world. Homo Sapiens are blessed with opposable thumbs, long lifespans, and perfect teeth designed to chew all kinds of food. Most importantly though, they are given the gift of their brain; a complex vessel that has amazing capabilities of storing information and controlling the body. Humans are fortunate for the brain that they are given because it is able to do much more than any other creature’s possibly could. People can process information and facts, understand the concept of time, and realize the reality that they live in unlike any other being on Earth. Overall, a human’s soul is fully dependent on its body. The organ of the body that is most crucial to survival, though, is the brain.

As previously noted, the brain is man’s greatest power. It is the organ that is the captain of the body. It commands all of the other organs on how to function and what to do. In a text titled, On the Sacred Disease, written by Hippocrates, multiple points are made upon the subject that prove its validity. To begin, the author states that, “It is the brain which is the messenger to the understanding. For when the man draws the breath into himself, it passes first to the brain, and thus the air is distributed to the rest of the body…” (SD 372-374). This fact proves that the human body was created in such a manner that the brain is the first organ to be taken care of. Once the brain receives the air supply that it desires, whatever is left over is sent to other areas of the body. Hippocrates feels that this is not something that mankind should ignore. He believes that the human body functions like this for a specific reason: the brain must receive its care first and foremost because it is the most important part of man. Hippocrates also mentions, “…the brain as being the primary seat of sense and of the spirits, perceives whatever occurs in the body…” (SD 395-396). This is a significant point that he adds into his work because it expands upon the belief that the brain is the most powerful part of the body. Hippocrates wrote that it perceives all aspects of the body and has intelligent senses of what is happening both internally and externally. No other part of the human body is capable of this astounding feat, thus is why the brain should be honored for its importance. Humans have learned to depend on the complex brains that they are created with and they sometimes take them for granted. However, brains are crucial to their lives and need to be treated accordingly.

Because the brain is a vital part of a human’s body, it needs to be made aware that sicknesses can target it. Mental illness is so tragic because it unfortunately is a part of some people’s lives. Slightly before the time that Hippocrates wrote, On the Sacred Disease, society had believed that mental illness was a type of punishment that the gods had inflicted upon those that they thought deserved it. Therefore, when someone was diagnosed with it, they became ashamed of themselves and quite fearful. Hippocrates was the first to rebut this thought, though. He opinionates within his text, “It is thus with regard to the disease called Sacred: it appears to me to be nowise more divine nor more sacred than other diseases, but has a natural cause from the originates like other affections” (SD 31-33). In this statement, he is referring that the Sacred Disease (a mental illness similar to epilepsy) is actually not associated with the gods. Rather it is a disease like any other that occurs due to natural causes. His idea is supported via a myth recited in the book, Primal Myths: “Because it is so by itself, we call it natural… The term nature [literally Heaven] is used to explain that things are what they are spontaneously” (PM 208). Hippocrates feels that the Sacred Disease begins this exact same way; naturally. It is spontaneous and not caused by the gods. It just happens. It is necessary to be aware of mental diseases because they attack the brain, the most powerful part of man.

Hippocrates argues that the brain is the most vital portion of a human’s body, but other scientists of the modern day beg to disagree. They believe that other sectors are more crucial because of their function and the overall benefits that they produce for the body. For example, some could argue that after certain people suffer from Traumatic Brain Injury, their quality of life decreases. Therefore, this supports the idea that the brain may not be the most powerful nor immune to everything because it can still be affected just like any other organ. Although some scientists and others believe in this idea, it is not necessarily true because the brain is still the greatest supporter of life. It moves the body’s limbs, connects to nerves, and stores precious memories. Overall, the brain can still be considered as man’s greatest power, no matter the state that it is in because of all the tasks that it can perform.

All in all, humans are unique creatures with impressive capabilities that are unseen in any other species. They are meticulously created and given strong parts of the body that help them to thrive in life. The brain, however, is the most appreciated of these parts.

-Your use of quotes as exemplary to a larger point is excellent, but the subject of that larger point should not be arguing for universal truth. Instead, argue about the concepts within On the Sacred Disease and Primal Myths. What does Hippocrates’s notion that divinity does not cause illness imply about the role of gods in human life? How does the natural quality of disease absolve or assign blame for him?

-You are right to use multiple texts but compare and contrast them on relevant conceptual bases.