Matt Hwang

Dr. Meloy

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Religion as a Culture

Humans adore the idea of having a purpose: being able to find that they have a reason to live. Religion makes a huge contribution to this idea. Just like any other relationship, the relationships between man and God are a key aspect of how connected one is to the religion as well as how man and God interact. In “Gilgamesh” and the first eleven chapters of the Hebrew Bible, there are many examples of how man and God interacted historically, allowing many connections to be drawn and inferences to be made. Gods were an influence in the lives of people, intervening in order to create life for those living, as well as learning the way humans behaved due to the aspect of free will.

Gods were characterized to give a certain amount of care to the world. In “Gilgamesh”, the gods hear of the tyrannical rule of Gilgamesh. Anu thus goes to Aruru and pleads of her to, “Create a new hero, let them balance each other perfectly, so that Uruk has peace” (74). Similarly in the Hebrew Bible, God sees the loneliness of Adam and says, “’It is not good for the human to be alone, I shall make a sustainer beside him’” (160). The deities had a desire for a presence of care, much like that of a parent. The care developed in this moment was a step towards making the world a better place. Because of Enkidu, Uruk could find peace. Because of Eve, the world, in the views of Christianity, could procreate. The interactions also seemed similar, due to the way neither of the humans directly was in contact with the respective deities. This indicates the higher power of the gods and how they were juxtaposed from the inferior humans. However, Christianity did show that humans could directly contact their God. A key moment is when Eve ate the forbidden fruit. She tells God, “I heard Your sound in the garden and I was afraid, for I was naked, and I hid” (160). Prior to the presence of sin in the world, humans had direct contact to God. There is a difference in the purpose of humans in the world of Christianity, as well as how much love God produces as opposed to the gods of “Gilgamesh”. God is seen cursing both the snake and the two humans (161). However, Gilgamesh is rarely seen being punished. Punishment is seen as an act of love, to correct wrongs. The God of Christians exhibits this kind of love.

Relationships are always complicated. Things become more obscure as gods are seen as deities of a higher power where humans are already inferior. People also perceive their gods differently. However, having a relationship with a higher power gives a sense of peace and guidance, giving life a special meaning.

Make sure that the concepts you introduce in your thesis are developed in your paper. In the first paragraph, you talk about purpose and free will, but don’t develop these concepts in the rest of the essay (free will is never mentioned again). However, the argument at the start of your second paragraph is good.

Avoid abstractions such as “special meaning” and human’s innate need for meaning in your introduction and conclusion. Keep the entire paper textual.

The second part of your body paragraph is interesting and starts to develop an argument, but it needs more evidence. For example, what evidence do you have that punishment is an act of love?

You should write your analyses is pairs, so you discuss the same concept in both texts. For example, when you say “Christianity did show that humans could directly contact their God,” you should also discuss to what extent the same is true in Gilgamesh and give evidence.

Make sure all of your writing is backed up by evidence and is true to the text. Don’t force your argument upon the text. For instance, Gilgamesh is punished through the death of Enkidu.