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Human Event

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Gilgamesh and Genesis Short Writing

In both *Gilgamesh* and *Genesis,* the divine is portrayed as the all-powerful, where for humans, the strive for power is constant, and the want for immortality is desperate. Each story shows that with power comes restlessness and knowledge brings oppression, but that doesn’t stop people. Both include humans who even the most powerful of them all like Gilgamesh, when showcased an opportunity to become like the Gods, will do whatever it takes to be granted that amount of power.

In *Gilgamesh* the Gods rule over humans like soldiers in an army, but humans are capable of making their own decisions, and have the option to move up in ranking. Gilgamesh is the most powerful human of all time along with Enkidu who is just as powerful but has more knowledge. Gilgamesh craves power and sets off on the most dangerous journey through the Cedar forest alongside his balancing partner, Enkidu, to defeat Humbaba in order to prove that he is the most powerful human. Gilgamesh’s mother states, “Lord of heaven, you have granted my son beauty and strength and courage-why have you burdened him with a restless heart?” (99). Gilgamesh thinks that he forever destined to be mortal so he is determined to become the strongest and most powerful mortal of all time. The most important thing to him is that he dies a hero's death and his legacy lives on forever. This leads to Gilgamesh taking on challenges that no mortal has ever survived only to conquer them all. Gilgamesh ends up angering the Gods and Enkidu’s life is sacrificed for the battles that Gilgamesh won for power. This puts death into perspective and makes Gilgamesh want immortality more than anything. He learns of Utnapishtim’s story of how he was mortal then became a God. Gilgamesh must then stay awake for seven days in order to become a God, but ultimately fails. His journey for immortality comes to an end, and he learns that becoming a God is more difficult than anything else, so instead he must live his mortal life to the best of his capabilities.

In *Genesis 1-11* Eve is tempted by a snake with the idea of knowledge that in the end curses her and Adam in the same way that Enkidu was cursed. Once they ate the fruit that would in turn make them more powerful than God intended, they were banished from the garden of Eden with the power of being a God, “...knowing good and evil…” (155). Adam and Eve had two sons, Cain and Abel, who were to present God with gifts as a sacrifice. When Cain found out that God favored Abel’s flocks more than his crops, he overcome with rage and murdered his own brother. God regretted the creation of these shameful humans who craved power and would do anything to be on top so he planned to wipe out the human race. God decided to send a flood that would kill everyone except Noah,his family, and two of each animal. It was a way to start over from the power greedy humans that decended from Adam and Eve.

The humans in *Gilgamesh* and *Genesis 1-11* prove to be power greedy and will sacrifice whatever it takes to be a God. The Gods are everything a mortal can dream of being, all powerful and immortal. They take long journeys to gain power, but are then faced with consequences that teach them to be the best human they can be and God will help them along the way.

Your thesis does a good job of introducing concepts, but it has too many concepts to be developed in the space of this paper.

The body is mostly summary. You have good evidence, but you need to relate it back to your argument.

The very ending of your paper, “teach them to be the best human they can be and God will help them along the way” is an interesting idea and should be developed more.

You should also add a relevant conceptual difference between the two texts, such as the “better selves” that the humans in each text become.