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6: The Antichrist

Nietzsche in his book, The Antichrist, heavily criticizes Christianity for the values it promotes and the values it denounces. He argues that the God of the Old Testament was a proud powerful God but in the New Testament, or the book that the Christians follow, God is one of less virtues and more pity, which he believes to be weak. Here, he is saying that Christianity puts weakness, since to feel pity is to feel suffering with someone who is suffering, before virtue which promotes weakness over strength. I understand where Nietzsche is coming from with this analysis and critique of Christianity, however I do not believe his interpretation to be valid or correct. Christianity teaches us to have pity on those who are less fortunate as those who are fortunate should be around to help them. It is not a sign of weakness to help someone in need. I believe it to actually be a sign of strength. It shows that you are not materialistic and you can put some less fortunate person before your own needs to help them get on their feet. This in turn strengthens that person as helping them out of suffering can only lead to good things for them. Strength, in my opinion, comes from the ability to live for someone else and not for yourself. To let go of your ego and help someone in need shows courage and strength because you overcame greed and lust. This is what I believe Christianity teaches, not what Nietzsche seems to believe.

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7. Jesus as the only Christian

While Nietzsche has a particular hatred for Christianity, it is obvious that he has a fondness for Jesus Christ, the messiah of the Christian religion. He sees Jesus as a man who speaks in metaphors preaching good things. He saw that Jesus lived to practice what he preached, being the only “real” Christian, as he has often criticized Christians for being hypocritical. He was fond of how Jesus lived to be good but doesn’t like how many Christians live only for the afterlife as in they follow and hold on to these believed truths for some sort of promised afterlife. I believe that there is merit in Nietzsche’s words when he describes these actions. It was true that Jesus was a man who did what he preached and believed in goodness. There are absolutely Christians who are far too concerned with the afterlife in Heaven than actually living in the present and being good to their neighbor, as Jesus taught. It is most certainly a massive misunderstanding of the metaphorical teachings of Jesus as Nietzsche puts it. However, I have personally met Christians who live just the opposite and fully understand the teachings of Jesus and live in goodness like him. IT seems to come down to how exactly one is taught to interpret the teachings. This is most definitely something that Christianity as a whole must work on because it takes away from the value of Jesus’ teachings if people do not follow them correctly.

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8. Dreams

Freud believes that dreams allow people to escape yet express and experience unconscious wishes that they may have in real life, knowing or not. Dreams are often unexplainable and contain many unrealistic elements that can often leave the dreamer confused if they should even remember the dream. Freud believes that dreams have extremely deep meanings and relate to a person’s true feelings subliminally. He also believes that issues in a person’s psyche stem form repressed sexual urges and these often appear as symbols in dreams. I believe that Freud relates things way too often to sex. Somehow I do not see a correlation to cigars or anything else Freud has talked about to sexual organs and I think he over analysis these things. You can’t go around saying every long shaped object represents a penis and every hole shaped object represents a vagina. Nonetheless, I believe that Freud’s dream theory is spot on. Dreams often explore weird and previously unknown areas of a person’s mind. I have way too often been confused after waking up from a dream about what it was. Sometimes, I even mix it with reality and am confused if the dreamed event actually happened or not. Other times I can feel myself sad that the events did not happen or incredibly glad that they did not happen. Dreams are probably something that we will never truly understand but will continue to amaze us for generations.

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9. Infantile Sexuality

Freud believes in many sexual images or symbols that have been constantly shown to us our entire lives. For example, he related an infant child sucking on its thumb to be a sexual symbol related to feeding on a mother’s breast. In fact, he relates the entire act of sucking on something to be of a sexual symbol. Personally, I believe that Freud goes too in depth with his symbolic analysis and while an infant sucking on its thumb may be a representation of a breast, much like that of a pacifier, I do not believe it to be inheritably sexual. Sexual acts often involve pleasure of great intensity, and this act does not deliver pleasure or release any repressed sexual urges. Freud often links many simple real world examples to sexual symbols and I think he focuses on it way too much. There is no doubt that sexual symbols have been live in society and presented to us at a young age, such as clothing models, various commercials and ads and many other things, but I do not believe Freud’s examples to be valid. There is a saying that “Sex Sells” and often these enticing figures and innuendos will appear in media, film, theatre, TV, ads and all over the place to gather attention. This should be more of focus when talking about human sexuality and the mind.

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10. The Uncanny

We are often enticed by the unknown or uncertainty of things such as the horrifying images placed into thriller and horror films and other works because they can capture some childhood fear or repressed though and replay it. Many children are told stories of ghosts and monsters to scare them into behaving. Yet this unknown fictional world intrigues us and we flock to see them in film. The uncanny work will bring these thoughts back and it becomes unsettling, as well as many other fears like the undead or hauntings. This is completely believable, as horror stories seem to always be a party favorite when passing around stories because they keep people on their toes. They are unsettled and disturbed by these repressed thoughts returning to them but yet cannot resist as if it is an inner part of their being. I see this when I find myself reading horror works on fiction online or going to theatres to see a film such as the Purge, or telling or listening to a story on the beach with a group of friends. We as a society are obsessed with the uncanny yet so terrified of it growing up and its truly a phenomenon of the mind.