

2022 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Youth Category – Honorable Mention]

Shaping society through my values

(Original)

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Human value can be many, mostly abstract things. Some may hold altruism close to their hearts, determined to help everyone they can. Others may value logical reasoning and scientific method above all else, preferring to live in a reasonable and flaw-free manner. On the surface, these values may seem conflicting. But in my opinion, people need to take a set of values to heart, not just one, to be the best version of themselves. Humans, by nature, need harmony and a little bit of everything.

I hold both altruism and logical reason close to my heart. This is a result of growing up in a loving environment that encourages learning. My parents never scolded me for asking silly questions like "why does rain have to fall?" or "why do dogs bark?" They explained it to me calmly instead, which led me to believe that asking questions is good and understanding the world around you is satisfying. As I entered school, I was taught to extend a helping hand to those in need. At first, I did not understand why I should do that, but one day, my friend tripped and fell, hurting his knees and head. I helped him up and brought him to our teacher because I was taught to do so. After he was treated, he looked back at me with a grateful smile, and my head clicked. I understand why helping people is desirable and how the helper can benefit from it now. Just by helping others, I feel both joy and relief without any tangible reward.

Since then, I have tried my hardest to live according to these two values, questioning things that happen around me and helping others out of goodwill. Admittedly, it is very hard. Questioning is no longer about natural phenomena explainable by science anymore. I'm curious about politics, human rights, and how society functions in general. But asking questions about those topics outright led to many misunderstandings. Some people thought I could not understand people's feelings. Others thought I was dumb and could not think for myself. Some even felt like I was being rude to them. Every time this situation occurs, I

explained myself as clearly as I could, and I do not hold anything against them, because I believe misunderstandings are common and inevitable. Sometimes when I try to help others, it turns out to be detrimental in the long term. Sometimes, handing out money to beggars only worsens the problem because they use that money to buy booze or even gamble, making the problem of poverty never-ending. Despite all this, I still believe that my values aren't wrong, only that my understanding of the world isn't good enough. I strive to further my understanding and use all my knowledge to help people in every way possible.

I sincerely wish to create a society where everyone extends goodwill toward others and holds the benefits of society over their own so that humanity as a whole can advance scientifically, socially, and mentally. This way, there would not be any more wars or unnecessarily violent arguments. Because everyone would try to understand others and help them unconditionally.

I understand that creating such a society is nearly impossible because some people are incomprehensibly selfish and some cannot accept the fact that they can be wrong about some things. There are even people who intentionally spread false information for their own gains. However, I also believe that humans are good by nature. These people are the way they are because society indirectly forced them to be cruel to survive. Then, by creating a better, more forgiving society, these people can bring out their good nature and further improve themselves. All of these cumulative efforts will lead to an improvement in humanity as a whole, and we can be happier while understanding the world around us better together.