Afi Koffi

Ms. Giknis

Creative Writing - This I Believe

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<div align="center">God of Morality</div>

One day I was sitting downstairs on the couch with my mom after school and we were watching the news. I remember it was rainy on a fall evening of 2016. I had returned from school, she from work, and we were both exhausted. It was quiet for there was no need to pollute this bonding with words. After the weather forecast, they began talking about a murder that had occurred in South Philly. I can't remember the details because I completely zoned out. I had so many question so many concerns. I had questions about the law enforcement, the situation that led to this and the relationship between the people involved. Above all was, how can people kill each other in cold blood? Where's the remorse, the humanity? I talked to my mom about it shortly thereafter and she rambled for a bit then concluded solemnly with a brief, "Focus on yourself and hold on to this innocence. We can't control those around us; that's God's job."

Eventually, I arose and prepared for bed. I had plenty to worry about like my homework, my benchmark, my misplaced phone. The thing I found most important though was the news story and my mom's advice and why things like this occur anyway. My mom told me that it's God's job to deal with the people around us. I understand that my God is not everyone's God but don't these people have a god of their own. Doesn't their god condemn murder like mine does? I know that there are people who don't follow a religion, but god or no god, shouldn't these people have morals? values?

It was eleven thirty at night and sleep still neglected me. My mind had drifted from the lack of people's values to where these values come from. Morals, what are they and where do they originate? Morals, I believe, are what help man differentiate from good and evil. How do we know what is good and what is evil, though? Murder is considered evil and is against the law in most places, but why? Humans are animals and animals kill their own all the time. So why have we made murder forbidden? The short answer? - God. Religion is what separates good from evil. This I believe, without religion, there is no such thing as morality. Morality is defined as principles concerning the distinction between right and wrong or good and bad behavior. This does not mean that only people who believe in God have morals. This merely means that religion is the basis of morals. It is true that people of different religions have different gods and beliefs but that isn't relevant because most religions share one thing, a god, or symbol(s) of morality and grace. Because there is a god of morality, we all aim to be moral and just.

Without religion, there is no good or evil, but rather I like and I do not like. It is possible to argue that we don't need morals or religion and that people won't murder because they don't want to be murdered. That brings me back to the news story from earlier. I'm sure the man who murdered the other guy wouldn't want to be killed, but he did it anyway. We cannot rely on human beings to do the "right" thing, that's why religion exists. Religion exists to give people guidelines on how to live a moral and happy life. Over time laws have adopted the thoughts and teachings of these religions. This, and only this, is the reason why murder is illegal.