

Our Kingdom

Just past the mourning woods  
There lies a famous kingdom  
Whose chilling aura asphyxiates,  
And pleading whispers taunt

The kingdom's rulers' remain unknown  
Their interests, however, were known by most

Destruction's eternal fans  
Waiting to lure in prey  
Feeding on fear  
Threatening with haste

In this kingdom,  
Of Kill, Mistreat, And Rape  
"Justice" chases  
How can one escape?  
Money and status are all it takes.

Like people, death is bought  
Inexorably becoming the ally of a monster's plot  
Parents conceded assaulting rights  
Discrimination constantly pursues a fight

Death becomes an option  
It is no longer your unavoidable fate.  
Human trafficking and prostitution  
Glorified in dazzling rates  
Pain becomes thrilling  
Corruption is normalized  
And immorality dominates

In this kingdom, a Shakespearean choice awaits  
To be or not to be  
The next of infamous kings

Or the insignificant rat  
That merely hopes to survive  
Whatever your choice may be  
Know that this kingdom,  
Is your home,  
Kenly

To say there is only one issue within our world, would be to omit an evident truth. Our menacing kingdom is full of conflicts that make the most hopeful of souls doubt it will ever stop being grotesque. They make one wonder whether society or humanity's pernicious nature is to blame. While it becomes clear that there are many problems in need of solutions, it is imperative to consider what most originate from. The main issue at hand centers on human nature, specifically the vicious side of it. Many may claim it is impossible to change it but I ask those who do not believe, why give up on something and claim it is a failure if success was never attempted in the first place? By not trying, failure is no longer an option but a guarantee.

In the last 2-3 years, crime has increased in vast numbers. According to a NYPD report on Crime statistics as of July 2022, crime has increased by 30.5 percent, specifically looking at it from an overall index. "Citywide shooting incidents increased by 13.4% (178 v. 157), driven by upticks in Brooklyn, southern Queens, and Staten Island. Additionally, the number of murders citywide increased for the month by 34.3% compared to the same period last year" (NYPD). What makes this statistic sadder, is that many of the perpetrators are no longer just the sick bastards who take pleasure in committing crimes, but young teenagers who are easily manipulated into becoming inhumane offenders. Sometimes it starts out by stealing and when that is overlooked, the crimes begin to escalate. Confrontations turn into murder scenes, and a traumatic past becomes a serial killers motive to take innocent lives. Take Salvador Ramos for instance. He is responsible for a tragic incident that is now recognized both nationally and internationally. At only 18 years old, he murdered 19 students and 2 teachers at Robb Elementary School, which he formerly attended. He targeted his old 4th grade classroom. New information came to light regarding his upbringing in order to comprehend how such a young person could be capable of harming innocent children. According to interviews carried out by the FBI, Salvador Ramos "was born in Fargo, North Dakota, but moved to Uvalde as a child with his sister and mother, who struggled with a long history of drug use. A former girlfriend interviewed by the FBI said she believed the shooter had been sexually assaulted at an early age by one of the mother's boyfriends but that the mother didn't believe him" (Trevizo). Many might say that his trauma began when he was being sexually abused and bullied because of his speech impediment. "Family and friends told the committee he was bullied throughout the fourth grade over his stutter, short haircut and clothing. He often wore the same clothing day after day. One time, a girl tied his shoelaces together causing him to fall on his face, a cousin said" (Trevizo). As he grew up he became more violent, harrasing female colleagues at his work place, and harassing his ex-girlfriend and her friends, as

well as positing online suicide videos and beheadings. He soon saved up money to buy rifles, and shins at the age of 17. Although this school shooter's story is sad and unfortunate, it does not justify the suffering and torture the students he killed suffered and the sorrow their parents are suffering as of now. Because of these types of incidents it is necessary for public officials to take action and develop programs in which prevention is key. Hate crimes are another type of crime which have now increased alarmingly. Georgy Floyd, who passed away at the hand of police officers is one of the biggest hate crimes that has occurred recently and marked a historical event in which racism continues to be battled. Another targeted group are religious groups. The cultural and racial differences have continued to split our world. Incidents such as the Laguna Wood shooting that occurred May 12th of this year at a Prebystreian church, which are provoked by racial differences, leave far too many injured and innocent people dead. Nowadays one can't leave their house without the fear of something bad happening to them and having to be alert every second of the day because, no matter where you are, whether it be in a supermarket, at a 7-Eleven, a place of worship, at a school, or salon, you can be a target. Even those who are in charge of maintaining order in their countries tend to fall in the wrong track and are responsible for committing crimes behind closed doors. If they already have so much power and are able to have so much money, how much more can they want? The selfish part of human nature dominates them and gives way to corruption.

While all of these crimes may stem from different reasons, one can argue that the savage part of human nature gives way to those reasons. Instead of walking away from heated arguments, individuals are blinded by their natural anger and they hurt one another to feel better. Racism has also incremented over the years and a reason as to why it exists is because individuals feel the need to be superior. Their ego needs satisfaction and if belittling others is the way to receive it, then so be it. Murderers sometimes like attention and it is in their nature to strive to be seen. And sometimes we can't even blame the savage part of human nature but the part that wishes to simply survive. Just last week, my friend told me she saw a woman fighting off a sexual aggressor as she walked by Jamaica. As he attempted to rape her, men and women ran away, afraid to help the girl for they were at risk of losing their life if they did. It brings one to question whether we can even blame them, as they were just attempting to remain alive. Our world has become an epitome of crime and the Darwinian theory has finally taken clear form in our society. Individuals look out for themselves and only a key few survive .

The general obvious solution would be to focus on changing human nature. The most effective solution would be to ensure the good always outweighs the bad. While this is easier said than done, it is not impossible. We can begin with law enforcement . After watching Juvenile Justice, a K-Drama that focused on giving strict punishments to young law offenders depending on their crime, it was evident that the judicial system was flawed. Regardless of age, one cannot be so lenient with sentences. People die day after day at the hands of murderers and it is only fair for them to receive proper justice. The police force is there to save lives, it is supposed to be a

trustworthy companion for individuals. Corruption should not destroy that. It is imperative to also focus on the education system. Unfortunately many students are forced to be a part of toxic families and the only way to help them outside of home is where they spent most of their day: at school. Teaching is a multidimensional art. It does not only consist of teaching some math, facts and reading. Teaching is about creating futures, manifesting morality, becoming a role model children can look up to, emanating righteous mindsets. If all children had the opportunity to learn, and had a teacher who cared about their aspirations, integrity would reign.

The world's current state should encourage us to fight more than ever against it. Our kingdom can soar, it can be one of peace. It is our duty to take down those nameless rulers who have terrorized this world for far too long. We cannot let more people suffer, we must prevent them from dying . We cannot let our world be one in which death follows at every corner. We have a chance to save it. The wonderful thing about human nature is that it contains duality. If we can hate, that means we can also love. Our world is one capable of freedom, peace and justice. Whether we choose to be teachers, police officers, fire fighters , doctors , business , engineers, we all have a responsibility to change our world. By allowing the good in our humanity to outweigh the bad, we begin to take our first step in improving our kingdom. If we see others in need of help, we can guide them onto the right path. If the choice is to be or not to be, we are. We are the key to salvation and it is up to us to give our world the chance it has been stripped of for far too long, the chance to redeem itself.

#### References:

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