

# Romanticism

I do agree with the critique of the enlightenment especially on the point regarding culture. I believe that because man has been cultured, much of his virtue has disappeared, this together with utility has caused man to become nothing but a machine of society. In the first paragraph I will talk about how mans virtue has disappeared. In the second paragraph I will discuss how utility has affected man and what this has meant. At last I will criticise the specialisation that the enlightenment has caused.

I believe man has become a machine working for society. He has lost all virtue as he has had to abandon the arts and conform to society. Because we humans started to live in cities and began to be cultured we have given up on the most fundamental values that we have as human beings. In the ancient world the public was a place for us to express our opinions and a place where we would share our thoughts. This is one of the strengths of the ancient world. We have unfortunately lost this freedom as part of us becoming cultured. We can no longer state what we mean in the public, it is important for us to think about what we say as we do not wish to say anything wrong. The public has become a place for us to show off all our utility! It has lost its sacredness and it has lost the virtue that man used to possess. This means that we as human beings have lost part of our human freedom and we have turned towards a herd mentality where we all follow the same guidelines and no one dares to stand out. This is a serious concern as we in the future will be so scared to say what we actually mean and we will only want to say what is expected from us. We as humans have lost what made us individuals and instead we have become part of an oppressing society that demands that we do not say what we mean, but instead what society wants us to do.

Man has become a slave of utility this means that we no longer think about our life and what we can do with it, but instead we think of all the utility we can lose and at the same time we are creating inequality. An example of this is one of the first forms of utility, land. Man began to cultivate the earth and this land suddenly "became" his. Because he owned his land he needed more animals and machines to work this land for him. When man then got money for what he earned he then bought more utility and this goes on and on. You would think this would make man happy now that he has all these things. But think again, instead of man becoming happy he really became worried about all the property that he could lose. Because the property was the only thing he had left, since man abandoned virtue and the values that follow, he protected it with his life. Man is no longer worried about his family or his true friends, if they try to steal his property he is willing to go to war over it as this is the most important thing in his life. He can not live without his property. Virtue in the ancient world did not mean that you could not go to war, but it meant that one should show a high moral when one went to war. Going to war over dead utility is not showing virtue at all. Man has therefore lost his virtue to useless utility that will not help him gain anything but problems in his life. This is once again a serious concern and a terrifying example of how human nature has changed because of the loss of mans virtue.

Since the introduction of society man has been forced to specialise in order to survive and to stay on top. Man can no longer do what he wishes to do as he is forced to follow one line of work for the rest of his life. In the ancient world the goal was to become good at all crafts of work. An example of how specialisation has ruined our lives and hardly made it worth living is the fact that when you grow up you will need to get a job. If you become a lawyer you will be identified as a lawyer for the rest of your life. Where ever you go people will ask what you do and you will respond "I am a lawyer" and when people will describe you to other people they will all use the same phrase "He/she is a lawyer". Actually your whole life is based on you getting a job and doing this for the rest of your life. When you are a kid and start attending school one of the first questions asked by your teacher is "What do you want to do when you grow up?" and the correct way to respond is by saying a job title. If you say I want to become a star gazer they will say you are crazy and need to

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find “a real job”. As John Lennon nicely put it: “When I went to school, they asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I wrote down ‘happy’. They told me I didn’t understand the assignment, and I told them they didn’t understand life.” The main problem with this specialisation is that everything is based around you making money, it is not really about what interests you anymore it is about you earning money to buy utility so you can raise kids that can make money and buy more utility. Today it is hard to make a living as an artist, and even art today is most of the times about making money. It is not about expressing yourself and your feelings. We are no longer satisfied about what we do because we do not chose what we really want to do. Again society has caused this because it is not important what we do as long as we do what society demands of us.

I believe man has become a machine to society, this happened ever since we humans became cultured. We have lost our virtue and our actions are now formed by the utility society has created. Man becoming cultures has caused us to become afraid of what we say and how we express ourselves in the public. We no longer say what we want but limit it to what society wants us to say. Utility has made our focus shift so we no longer care about the people around us but only the utility that we buy. Specialisation has become the downfall of all freedom and taken the last human parts of us away from us.

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