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Chapter 23: Motivation of Humans

Water, a necessity that's difficult to find in the isolation of the desert, is just as hidden as friendship in society. People could obtain it, but they are motivated by other wants. The Little Prince, by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, which is about an individual who appears juvenile while holding attributes that a wise man would have and after being tormented by his rose flees from his planet, using a flock of birds and he then travels from planet to planet, searching for contentment, the universal theme that systems are influenced by other systems, just like the motivation of others, is illustrated in chapter 23 through the author's criticism of systems of time, satisfaction, and consumerism. Also, other articles such as "Why Are You Trying to Save Time?" by Charlie Gilkey, "Why do We want to be Happy?" by Eduardo Gutierrez, and "The Crisis of American Consumerism" by Amitai Etzioni have explanations, for these systems outside the book.

To begin with, throughout all of the story, the author often criticized society. In this it is expressed through irony and sarcasm of how people want time. St. Exupery expressed sarcasm in this chapter through the words of the Little Prince. "As for me," said the little prince to himself, "If I had fifty-three minutes to spend as I liked, I should walk at my leisure toward a spring of fresh water.(Saint-Exupery pg 66)" While other people would rather take the "pill" for

the sake of efficiency and are driven by the wanting of time, the prince prefers the opposite, which is to work hard. In the article “Why Are You Trying to Save Time?”, Gilkey states “Once [an individual] has reclaimed some of their time, the usual response is to fill that time up with more things to do.” This is a real life example on how people want more time but will still end up using that “spare” time on another activity. This is maybe what the author is trying to imply through the words of the prince. The work of people is rushed for more time yet there is still not enough time. The need for efficiency is something that is constantly “needed” more by people that we end up in a cycle with empty space and wanting to fill up that space with work. The author explains how the prince prefers to go find water, but what exactly does “the water” represent.

Second of all, through the perspective of the Prince we’ve seen how important connections are. Everything in *The Little Prince* has deeper meaning or is hinted through the text to have deeper meaning. Water is expressed as hard work, as in a desert it is difficult to find. The merchant then states “You need only swallow one pill a week, and you would feel no need of anything to drink. (Saint-Exupery pg. 65)” Keeping in mind that water isn’t just water when mentioned by the Prince or any character, water can be a multitude of things symbolically. Water can be representative of relationships, events or the “journey” taken towards making ties with someone, and even time. Energy boosters are meant to give us more time but in the process we make the decision on how to spend it and consider what is “wasting time” and what isn’t. I am thirsty for this water," said the little prince. "Give me some of it to drink . . ." And I understood what he had been looking for. (Saint-Exupéry pg. 65) This implies that the water in the story really does stand for friendship, as the pilot realizes that this water seems so much more because of

friendship. The journey, the hard work, the pill denies all of this. People are driven more on the happiness and glee rather than the journey and experience, the satisfaction rather than the journey. The pills the merchant is selling are energy boosters meant to help save time, to be happy and prevent us from needing to drink water (take the journey/ make ties). The prince, would rather use this energy booster, meant to give an individual more time and just use it to take his time and go through his own journey.

Ultimately, With the context further explained. You understand the purpose on why they took the pills, but what were the other reasons they chose to take the pills. The steps taken to making ties is rushed by this system. "Because they save a tremendous amount of time," said the merchant.

"And what do I do with those fifty-three minutes?" (Saint-Exupery pg.66)." Even the Prince himself is questioning the supposed saved time as to what to do with that time since no matter what the task is going to get done. People aren't influenced by the this idea rather, for there want more time to do other activities. To do and get more, yet people could also possibly do this out of boredom. Gilkey states that, "To keep from being bored, we fill up that time with more busyness. Once we get busy, we get overwhelmed and start looking for ways to save more time."Although it does seem strange and paradoxical. This a continuous and endless cycle that people go through. They want time, they get bored, stress themselves, and then want more time, even though they are going to end up doing this all over again and again. They are promised more time, but don't get what they want. People keep going through this cycle in hopes of improvement but are never content. Whether it is boredom and efficiency or the wanting of journey and adventure, everyone is driven by a force or desire.

All points taken, *The Little Prince* has shown that systems that are influenced by other systems through in chapter 23 by the author's critique on society's motivation. These systems are time, satisfaction, and consumerism. Because of this, we need to realize that we are all driven by a force, either positively or negatively. That it is inevitable if you think about it and the more we realize this the better we will be able to control these motivations. Realize that we have to take one day at a time, love the journey, and just realize that we can't change these "forces" with force.

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