



What is Humanism?

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Humanism involves the duties of individuals to public welfare. It is a doctrine which emphasizes a man's capacity to realize others through reason. This doctrine rejects the concept of religious and supernatural ideas and it is specifically based on human ability and intellect. Humanists believe in the liberal arts and they believe in humanistic abilities. They are the ones which are concerned with basic interest and the welfare of the society. Their philosophy is governed by man's capacity to fulfill his responsibilities through the use of reason and through the use of his intellect.

Being human is the core element in humanism. Being human involves the use of one's emotions and ones of intellect in order to handle every decision. Both intellect and emotion should work hand in hand in order for a person to have the perfect life, free from any prejudices and restraints. All decisions should be based on both intellect and emotion, because without both we will not be able to make clear and solid decisions.

According to the American Humanist Association, humanism is a rational philosophy which is based on informed science, inspired through art and highly motivated by compassion. This means that humanism involves scientific information through the marriage of art and compassion. Humanity, according to them, is based on art. Everything around us is art and everything has its own beauty. Art is not about perfection but about beauty through perseverance. A piece of art takes shape once the hands of its artist strive for its completion. Hence, everything is worked upon, even the world which took a million years to take shape.

Humanism is based on understanding one's shortcomings and frailties. Being human is not about being perfect or being unrestrained, it is about making mistakes and gaining experiences. As human beings, we should not be afraid to ask help to others. We should never be afraid of communication or to talk about our problems. Everyone has problems and it often takes time for us to find the right answer. Love, success, knowledge and trust are based on years of experience. Once we have learned about life we begin to gain true wisdom.

Paul Kurtz noted that the beginning of true wisdom is through the awareness that human beings can achieve a perfect life through the cultivation of virtues and intelligence. He pointed out that through virtues, intelligence and courage we will eventually be able to gain true wisdom. Humanism is a philosophy based on joyous service that is catered to the greater good of all human beings in this world and to advocate the marriage of science, democracy and reason. Lastly, humanism is based on determination. Human beings strive in order to improve not only their lives but also the lives of their families and the society.

Questions:

- 1) What is humanism according to you?
- 2) Who noted that the beginning of true wisdom is through awareness?
- 3) What group mentioned that humanism is a rational philosophy?
- 4) What are based on years of experience?
- 5) What is the term used to describe people who believe in humanism?