

Life without controversy is no life

But why one should not choose the safe haven of conformity? (2017)

OUTLINE

1 Introduction

Thesis Statement: Conformity at the expense of individuality and felicity traps man in a vicious cycle of mundane life. This leads him to just exist and not live. Thus, life with controversy weighs more than to choose conformity.

2 How one should not conform to the traditional and prevalent norms

3 Conformity must be discouraged owing to its threatening impacts

(a) Shatters the individuality

(b) Leads to robotic and stagnant life

(c) Elimination of man's existence

(d) Butchery of one's creativity and intellectuality

4 Theoretical perspective to explain the behaviour of a deviant

(a) Robert Merton's theory of Anomie

5 Literary depictions to prioritize the need to nurture individuality by forsaking the notion of conformity

(a) Deviance of choosing liberty over marriage

- (i) Jo March in Little Women
- (b) Shuns the concept of traditional heroic concepts
 - (ii) Arms and the Man by George Bernard Shaw
- (c) Condemns the concept of women as irrational and illogical
 - (i) Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

6 Personalities who dared to defy the notion of conformity and stirred the controversies

- (a) Friedrich Nietzsche
- (b) Martin Luther
- (c) Martin Luther King Jr.
- (d) Virginia Woolf
- (e) Jean Jacques Rousseau

7 Global political and social events which proved that conformity is a curse and there is always a need of deviance

- (a) French Revolution
- (b) Black Lives Matter
- (c) Outbreak of Feminism
- (d) Hamas' Raid on Israel

8 Conclusion

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." (Martin Luther King Jr.) In this quote darkness and hate can be referred to the gloomy lingering cloud of conformity which has veiled the world. Amidst this, instead of conforming to society's norms and values, only non-conformity - represented by light and love - can rekindle one's relationship with one's inner-self. Conformity at the expense of individuality and felicity traps man in a vicious cycle of mundane life. This leads him to just exist and not live. Thus, life with controversy weighs more than to choose conformity.

Conformity must be neglected for it shatters individuality, eliminates man's existence, leads to stagnant life along with killing one's creativity and intellectuality. Moreover, Robert Merton's theory of Anomie illustrates the very concept of deviance. Furthermore, the literary depictions of Flaubert, Shaw and Woolf further reiterates that one should never conform to prevalent beliefs. Likewise, there were famous personalities who chose to be different and shunned being a pawn in the game of conformity. These include Nietzsche, Martin Luther,

Martin Luther King Jr, Virginia Woolf and Rousseau. Similarly, there were global events in the world which impacted socio-political dimensions and reinstated the need of rebellion in the face of conformity. These events include French Revolution, 'Black Lives Matter' movement, outbreak of Feminism and the recent Hamas raid on Israel on October 7. Thus, human beings should muster up the courage to be different than to quietly follow and be a conformist.