Nancy Alvarado

Steven Kaufman

Philosophy 1

11/29/2018

Are humans born evil?

Darwin Martinez Torres, a 25 year old man in Northern Virginia has pleaded guilty to the rape

and murder of a 17 year old girl. The news article states that Torres became angry after arguing

with the teenager and her group of friends. He later found them in a parking lot, chased and

beat the girl with a baseball bat, put her into his car and raped her with an unspecified object

before killing her. With no motive for such a heinous act, It is easy to conclude that some

humans are simply born with an inner wickedness, and that we'll never know what motivates

these people to act so horrifically. However, things may not set in stone this way. Members of

the young girl's family and religious community claim she was targeted for her race and religious

affiliation. If this was the case, is an innate evilness the motive of the murderer? Or was it due

to societal factors? Most people would shy away from trying to understand such actions from

the murderers viewpoints, But there are other factors like abusive upbringings, violent societies,

and mental illness that can explain why some people are driven to take such actions. This

would support the claim that humans are not born evil, and we are in fact born with innate

goodness. A good example of this is a heartwarming story of a woman in North Carolina who

jumped to rescue of a baby choking on mashed potatoes in a restaurant. This story shows that

most of us naturally jump to the rescue for someone else when they are in need or in danger,

when we are able, of course. A lot of us would not mind sparing some extra change,donating

some extra time for volunteer work, holding open a door for a person in a wheelchair, or

returning a lost or dropped item to the owner. Those of us who are not willing to take such actions to help others are most likely swayed by societal factors like greed and dishonesty.

Source:

Nicole Chavez, Janet DiGiacomo, (2018). Man pleads guilty to rape and murder in killing of muslim teen attacked near mosque.

Retrieved from:

https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/man-pleads-guilty-to-rape-and-murder-in-killing-of-muslim-teen-attacked-near-mosque/ar-BBQeCOU?ocid=spartanntp