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## Comparative Analysis of Nietzsche and King's Writings

### **Introduction**

Inequality has been a key issue in history and philosophical studies for years. The treatment of the poor by the government and the wealthy affects their access to resources and social empowerment. This paper is a comparative analysis of King's and Nietzsche's on the treatment of the poor. King's letter from Birmingham jail demonstrates that all people should be treated equally and failure where he condemns injustices and racism. Nietzsche supports enslavement as a necessity for the development of an aristocratic society. The analyses of these work shows that King provides evidence on the need and necessity of justice among all groups regardless of gender, race, and class.

### **Nietzsche's Philosophy**

An aristocratic society is a necessity since it facilitates the establishment of order in any given society. Nietzsche notes that some form of slavery is necessary at least in the lowest forms even in democracies. For there to be an aristocratic society, there has to be order among men where some are awarded higher positions in comparison to others<sup>1</sup>. The work developed by Nietzsche shows that philosophers have held dogmatic beliefs that generalize ideas on morality. Both historical and religious schools of knowledge demonstrate that men cannot be equal since the establishment of class occurs naturally in any society. Nietzsche describes people as beasts who are always fighting for power and attempting to rise above the commoners. The philosopher

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<sup>1</sup> Nietzsche, Friedrich. *Nietzsche: Beyond good and evil*. Cambridge University Press, 2002: 246.

supports his claim that the existence of slavery presents naturally when people in aristocratic societies fight like animals for power<sup>2</sup>. Slavery is the solution towards ending the animosity among humans; like the plants in Java scramble for sunlight. Nietzsche supports beating down the vulnerable by presenting the issues of power and the behavior of men in the society.

### **King's Approach to Justice**

Martin Luther King Jr. argued differently on racial equality and the treatment of all weak men in the United States. The letter from Birmingham jail demonstrates the views of King on how the blacks should be treated<sup>3</sup>. It is clear that in his view, politics, the law, and the government should treat all men as equal since this is a necessary approach towards gaining freedom. Racial inequality could be prevented through non-violent protests addressing issues that disproportionately affect the black people. King wanted a country where all people are equal and no black person should be prevented from accessing any services from the government in the nation. King supported the views of Martin Buber, Tillich, and Aquinas on their views on justice and liberation throughout the world. He urged that gradual change would result from active participation in peaceful demonstrations to demand social justice. Democratically, the blacks should be allowed to vote and contest in elections into power as the majority race in America.

### **Comparative Analysis**

Comparing the views of Nietzsche and King demonstrate how equality affects the weaker individuals in the country. However, these authors vary on various issues associated with the creation of power and sharing resources in the country. I am in agreement with King's views on justice and equality among all individuals since he provides proof on the possibility of equal

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<sup>2</sup> Nietzsche, 2002: 257

<sup>3</sup> King Jr, Martin Luther. "Letter from Birmingham jail. (2012): 179.

treatment<sup>4</sup>. Additionally, King provides evidence on how inequality in the United States had affected his brothers and family members. The means of achieving such equality and justice in the country are clear since King demonstrates how protests could lead to better lives for the blacks. The letter from Birmingham prison offers proof on how the government should offer equal opportunities for all people regardless of skin color or race.

Nietzsche's work does not show support his theory that slavery must exist within the society. Additionally, the forms of servitude he presents are unlikely to receive any support from the individuals in power and the commoners governed by law<sup>5</sup>. Aristocracy develops in any society even when countries like the United States employ democratic processes. I do agree with the author that people cannot be equal even when they use the same resources. Weaker individuals are present in any group of people regardless of the size of the group. A community like a country is likely to have individuals who belong to different classes such as the wealthiest Americans. Other low-income people live in neighborhoods with fewer resources compared to those of the rich. While Nietzsche clearly defines how class affects the powerful and the weak in the society, there is no proof that enforcing inequality would be necessary for any country to function.

The equality that King advocates is based on legal and political participation rather than the distribution of wealth. Division among social classes is guaranteed even among the blacks themselves<sup>6</sup>. However, the government should not be involved in oppressions that make the poor and the weak more vulnerable in the society. King demonstrates a clear point of view that shows why equal access to resources and opportunities is necessary to avoid a racial catastrophe.

Additionally, King observes that the government's restrictions make matters worse for the black

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<sup>4</sup> King, 2012: 180.

<sup>5</sup> Nietzsche, 2002: 259

<sup>6</sup> King, 2012: 182.

people including himself. According to the rights' activist, the government should respond to the demands of the weak to avoid a race war as proposed by some blacks in the society. The weaker groups may be defined by the amount of wealth, race, and gender depending on the composition of a country or community. King clearly shows that political and legal equality should be enforced among all the members of the community regardless of their racial orientation.

Works Cited

King Jr, Martin Luther. "Letter from Birmingham jail." *Liberating faith: Religious voices for justice, peace, & ecological wisdom* (2012): 177-187.

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