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ENG202 Global Literature

16 September, 2020

### Moliere: Tartuffe Response Essay

While reading, I noticed numerous pieces of evidence of corruptibility, irrational behavior, and self - serving acts in the characters of Tartuffe and Orgon. At the beginning of the play, Orgon's family felt peculiar about Orgon bringing in Tartuffe from the streets and didn't trust him. Orgon who was in complete denial of any hypocrisy of Tartuffe viewed him as a religious leader. Trusting Tartuffe and being naive lead Orgon to give all his money, power, authority, respect, and love to Tartuffe. When Orgon first meets Tartuffe he is very drawn to his ideals and practices. In scene 1.5, Tartuffe says, "I am not worthy. I don't deserve your gifts or pity. I am here to serve the will of heaven, that and nothing more" (146). By Tartuffe saying that to Orgon, he made it very easy to deceive him so that Orgon could trust him. With that being exactly what happened. Orgon was manipulated and believed that "heaven" was speaking to him and invited Tartuffe to live with him and his family. In Act two, Orgon becomes very self-serving. In the second act, it opens up to Orgon having a conversation with his daughter Mariane and he decides he wants to arrange a wedding between Tartuffe and his daughter. "Wise words, daughter. So this is what you say: He is a perfect man in every way; in body and soul, I find him divine and then you say, please father, make him mine"(150). Lastly, a wake-up call to Orgon was when he almost lost everything to Tartuffe. In act 5.4, a man of bailiff arrives at their home with news from Tartuffe. "It's just a warrant saying we can seize, not me of course,

but this Monsieur Tartuffe - your house and land as his”(186). This shows how corrupted Tartuffe was and how Orgon’s irrational behavior almost cost him everything.

Moliere's text is a prelude to enlightenment thoughts regarding Christianity. Throughout the play, Tartuffe is symbolized as religion and the catholic church. Moliere used Tartuffe as a character to symbolize things he saw wrong with the church. Using satire as a way to condemn the church.