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Swk499: Integrative Seminar

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Jan 25. 23

1. What does it mean to be compassionate? (What is the Latin?) Based on the introduction, Compassion asks us to join people in their suffering. What I understood by this description is that compassion is an action rather than a feeling. Compassion is composed of two Latin words that are “pati” and “cum” that when put together it means “to suffer with”.

2. Why is compassion not a natural phenomenon? Compassion is not a natural phenomenon because of the damage it would cause to any country or civilization that lives their life in suffering rather than other attributes like conquering or seeking to achieve greatness. Peregrine Worsthorne mentioned “ *there is a real and awful danger of people actually beginning to identify with the world of suffering*”. I understand Peregrine's point of view because people have to seek to become strong and powerful instead of remaining in a state of compassion or long suffering.

3. If compassion is at odds with individual freedom, why? Compassion is at odds with individual freedom because a compassionate person can not tolerate one individual suffering while another individual enjoys a victory. Unfortunately, we live in an unequal society where there are oppressed and oppressor, winner and loser, and have and have not.