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HIS 113: World Civilization I

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Research and Writing Assignment- Alexander the Great

When I read the part of the instructions that advised us to begin the exercise by focusing on my relationship to nature, I quickly realized that I am very dependable on things that are separated from nature. As mentioned, light bulbs and air conditioners are two prime examples of technologies that detract from my relationship with nature. However, another one I thought of was stuff like microwaves, ovens, a fridge, etc. Like everyone who lives in today's times, I am so dependent on these devices to get me through things like hunger, fresh air, and live with light.

I think this definitely affects my values in many ways in comparison to those who live in the Agrarian world. It is a way that we do not need to work for simple necessities compared to people in the past who worked to have everything they needed, even something as simple as heating food or turning on a light. We will never experience what it would be like to have to devise and create new tools that could help us survive. Instead, we just go to the store or look on Google if we ever need to find a way to fix something or buy something new. We are lost from the value of working for what we want, adapting to our surroundings, and the value of fearing failure and loss in what we

have. Many people may gain these values for different reasons today, but most have never experienced having to make essential everyday tools from scratch.

To begin, one of the main differences between my everyday life and that of the people in Agrarian society is growing up as a child. I was surprised to reach that the reason many families had children was for labor. I know there are still many children today who grow up working for their families, but I have never known or experienced child labor growing up. Another social difference I noticed was that of arranged marriages in the past in which people paired up their children, based on political and economic standards, for reasons and factors that were not about love. That is very different today, and how I was raised to where my family always advises me to be wise in who I choose to marry and make sure love is always involved. The section about work really stood out to me in this chapter as it states that most people who entered into work generally stayed in that job for life. Today, people have different jobs through college and many more after college, but before, the first job you got was expected to be what you stuck with forever. It was really hard to change careers frequently in the past due to economic and social roles.

These are just some of the differences I noticed while reading the chapter, but they were the ones that stood out to me and were the most different in how I live my life. All of this changed my view of the world, making me feel lucky to live in such a progressed society and culture and realize that I took a lot for granted. I could not imagine living and growing up following the rules considered “normal” like they did before. From reading the chapter, I can tell hard work was not something they lacked. Compared to how I live my life today, I am so dependent on what I have, and, luckily

grew up never having to put in an excessive amount of work for what my parents have provided for me.