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Toward a Compassionate Society

In today's world people are busy trying to achieve career goals and get promotions, in order to make their families comfortable. For most people, economic freedom and access to luxuries ~~are~~ ^{are} the topmost ^{priorities} priority. Therefore, people spend their entire lives searching for these things. In the midst of all these activities, it is easy to forget that there are other people suffering from disease, hunger or poverty. It is easy to become indifferent and assume that living in lack is a matter of choice. It is not surprising to find the wealthy stereotyping the poor when they do not understand the kind of struggle they endure everyday just to survive. To forget the society is to forget that there is another form of poverty: the poverty of the heart.

On the contrary, to be compassionate is to identify with the suffering of others. Compassion is more than feeling sorry for the less fortunate: it is about making an effort to improve their lives. According to ^{Robin Wiszowaty} ~~Wiszowaty's~~ (2010) in *My Maasai Life*, it involves taking action to relieve another person's suffering. Compassion entails seeing life from another person's perspective, understanding their struggles, and making an effort to alleviate their pain.

Wiszowaty's (2010) book describes Robin's life as she makes the transition from an empty life to a life full of meaning. She describes her life in Illinois as mundane because people engaged in usual activities without giving thought to their reason for existence. Although her parents disagreed with her perspective of life, she held on to it, leading to the development of a bad relationship between them. During the course of the search for her true purpose, she got an opportunity to travel to Kenya where she lived among the Maasai community.

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Maria
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During her stay she faced challenges she had never encountered such as famine, poverty, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) among others. Amid the challenges however, she was warmly welcomed by the Maasai community. She learnt the Swahili language and the Maasai culture. Her experiences with the Maasai community caused her to develop feelings of compassion for the community. In this regard, she did volunteer work in schools to empower the children. ^{in what country?} to...

Although her work yielded positive results in the community, she acknowledges that community work cannot be done by one person. She urges others to form partnerships to help the raise the living standards of the poor.

Wisowaty's book is a three hundred page interesting read about her life's journey. It begins with a description of her family. She stated that she felt out of place in Illinois and thought than no one understood her. As a result, she developed poor relationships with her parents as they neither understood nor accepted her worldview. For instance, she was rebellious against her father's success ideologies and did not care for her mother's affections. Even though she felt dissatisfied with her mundane life, it was childish for her to develop feelings of anger towards her family. She caused her mother unnecessary pain and did not show compassion even when her mother reached out to her on several occasions.

There is no topic sentence or analysis in this paragraph.

When she joined the University of Illinois, her mother was worried about her. She wanted to develop a good relationship with her daughter but Robin would not let her in. She did not have mercy on her mother in her distraught state. For this reason, I formed the opinion that Robin's journey to Africa was not inspired by a desire to help communities. Instead, she intended to live a meaningful life at whatever cost.

Although the book begins with a description of the author's self-centred ideas on life, the storyline later develops around the concept of compassion. The author describes the Kenyan capital and the Maasai community in a way that allows the reader to understand the prevailing challenges and the nation's background. For example, she provides an accurate description of the building

structure of the Maasai homestead, their food, economic activities, mode of dress, gender roles and customs. She also describes the streets of Nairobi, Kibera slums, her host family living in Westland's suburbs, and the transport industry. These descriptions help the reader to understand life from the perspective of the Maasai people.

When she started living among the Maasai, she saw the people's suffering and showed them compassion. For instance she shared a bottle of soda with young children on public transport. Her stay with the Maasai community caused her to appreciate her homeland. For instance, when a cow drunk some of her bathing water as she bathed, she questioned her decision to leave Illinois. Also, during her stay, Wiszowaty's ~~(140)~~ ⁽¹⁴⁰⁾ character began to develop. She became braver in the midst of challenges. For example, she developed courage when she saw a fearless Maasai girl undergoing circumcision.

However, this experience caused her to develop internal and external conflict as she was unable to perceive the custom from the community's perspective. Although she did not agree with some of the Maasai customs, such as female circumcision, the community perceived the rite as an important part of their culture (Wiszowaty, 108). Also, the community's education system seemed to discourage girl education since the girl child had many duties to perform in the home. For these reasons, she felt compassion on the young girls and decided to take action to empower them (Wiszowaty, 246). She . . .

Even though Robin's description of the Maasai people revolves around a portrayal of their low living standards and need for help, the book also reveals Robin's need for help. As she showed the community empathy, the community in turn showed her compassion. Although they struggled to communicate due to language barrier, the community made her realise how emotionally poor her native land was. The people neither showed her hostility nor judged her for being a foreigner. Instead, they gave her a chance to become part of their community. In fact, she found an opportunity to make a new friend, Samuel.

WORKS CITED

Wisowaty, Robin. *My Maasai Life*. Toronto: Me to We Books, 2010. Print.

Lucas

Comments on Paper 2

This draft of Paper 2 does not respond to the prompt. Please read over the prompt (it's still posted on bblearn, in the Content section), then, if you have questions, please ask me.

Grade now: D