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To Whom It May Concern:

Universal Culture

Culture is often what seems to set humans apart in many ways, people consistently stereotypically judge each other for their culture and values. However values of culture consist of many different things, varying on the type of culture given. Numerous people might question if all of our values all have one global meaning in the end. Most values are put into place for one reason or outcome that occurs when those values are in place, so in that light, most values are for overall happiness of the people. This shows that culture is universal because of why the values are the way they are.

Take first for example the family values in India and America. The values have almost no differences and they all conclude to the the same value. In both of the cultures young people need to take care of their elders and show them the uttermost respect possible because they are seen to have much more wisdom, knowledge, and they have been through more. Consuming alcohol and tobacco, smoking cigarettes, and displaying violent behaviors are prohibited in both cultures in individual families despite them sometimes still happening. Another family value is that many engage in some form

of meditation or prayer. In America, meditation is focused through yoga more often, but both still practice relaxation of the mind. All of these have been led to believe that they are set there because of overall happiness that occurs when you follow those values. If you don't smoke, do drugs or drink, you don't face the problems of addiction. If people meditate they have a clear mind, thus making it easier for them to make decisions, resulting in overall happiness again. Common respect means that no one feels mistreated so everyone can be happy there too. The culture values of family in India and America all result in happiness, showing that humans aren't actually that different from each other.

Next look at the most popular religion in both countries, Christianity and Hinduism. They focus on different gods of worship, India's most of the time being Shiva, the "destroyer of evil". Christians focus more on the belief of Jesus or Nazarene. When looked at from a wide angle, both religions are worshiping in some manner. In a book called *A Time To Dance*, the main character worshipped Shiva through dance. In America, Christians commonly go to a church and repeat prayers. These values could also be considered for happiness in the big picture because in the book, the main character loves to dance and tell her god's story, and in America going to church seems to be fun or beneficial for most. If it isn't, it's to make another family member happy, such as their parents, grandparents, etc. Religion is potentially not for the sole purpose of being happy, but both religions display an afterlife, or form of reincarnation. Many focus on getting to this point because of the alternative that they would face otherwise.

Christians don't want to go to Hell, and Indians don't want to be reborn into a lowly form. If they worship their gods correctly and show good behavior, then they will be rewarded with good karma, or heaven, which there they will find *happiness*. Not all religions may focus on this happiness after point, but a lot of religions do focus on getting to that happy ending.

Lastly, one could look at the connection through entertainment. Both cultures value entertainment, whether it be Bollywood or Hollywood movies, dances of worship or ballet recitals, the Taj Mahal or the Washington Monument. Entertainment is known for the joy it brings, and with joy, happiness. Bollywood and Hollywood movies are all a great chance to stray away from the reality and struggles that everyone faces. Monuments and millions of dollars are spent for the entertainment of the people but they value that down time. Dance shows ways of expressing one's self while at the same time entertaining peers. Entertainment equals happiness.

From this we can conclude that cultural values are universal because even though most of the time they focus on way different things, the effect of these values are usually happiness so it's something that most of them have in common. From this one could learn how each value is different, but not really different when you look at it through the big picture. Therefore, even though values are all unique from each other, they are universal.

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