

“What makes me woman?”
Lucy wondered,
“What makes me not?”
Do I not see like them, feel like them?
Does my brain not work like them? Is it not filled with thoughts?

I’m glad my remains were found, but upset that my life was lost.
I’ve stood my ground, walking on two feet but for what cost?
What makes me human? What makes me not?
For truth uncovered, I hope is what’s sought,

What does it mean to be human?
Is it the tools? Is it the cognition?
To know what the future holds, is that too much ambition?

I would ask Man, but He couldn’t tell me the truth.
With no way for Him to understand, the separation is too cruel.

And what would I tell her? Where is it definitive?
Perhaps it’s when We stopped needing to survive, and started looking to live.

Groups turned into tribes, tribes turned into fights.
Fights are less about intruders and more about rights.

Are we any better? Would she be happy?
To see societies formed and a surplus of food,
But on the streets hungry families.

Could she recognize God? Would she care about religion?
Could she fathom the Son of Man before they ever existed.

If one thing had been changed, if one thing had been different,
Would the world have been better if ruled by Denisovans?
Would there only be the bad? Would it matter at all?
Would vice still run rampant, if not *Homo Sapiens* but Neanderthals.

If I could tell Lucy, forever kept in her sleep,
I would tell her she knew exactly what it was to be Human,
And not simply through her dreams.

It’s in the way we were always social,
Never alone, always in groups,
And working with each other,
In using new tools or gathering food.

Self-Assessment Questions:

1. What did you learn?

Throughout this project, there was not much in regards to learning something new as it was reviewing what we had already learned this semester. I had wanted to include more specific references to human ancestors and the step-by-step general progression along our evolutionarily history but did realize how many various groups there were and didn't want the poem to be extremely long.

2. What challenges did you face while completing this assignment?

As aforementioned, I wanted to work with a progression between primates and humans but realized it would be too long. I tried to start with Lucy and convey a two-fold perspective between what she would have thought and contemporary humans.

3. How did you overcome these challenges?

I decided to not try to tackle too much and simply write with the limited scope I was able to achieve both logistically and through the lens of my personal creative ability.

4. How successful do you think you were with your final product?

Admittedly, I would have liked to achieve more in terms of what I could have included and the overall creative quality of the poem. I did think I came up with an interesting approach to the project, however, and genuinely did ponder on what a conversation between Lucy and I would have been like if it could ever happen. With the utmost creative liberties, of course, I think it would be an interesting talk.

5. What do you think you could have done better?

Whether to begin earlier in the evolutionary process or to have picked a slightly better approach, I think there was room for growth in terms of to fully exemplify what I had mentally pictured.

Originally, a poem was not the intended project I had primarily decided on doing. Admittedly, I am not artistically inclined nor would I regard myself as one who is necessarily creative. I had thought about doing something with music and trying to personify or depict one of the topics that we had discussed in class during the semester. When I realized a poem may be a good route to go instead, I began writing.

While writing, I had thought about what I wanted to write about and immediately the idea of a human ancestor and a modern-day human meeting came to me. Obviously this would never happen and even if they were to meet magically, a conversation would never be able to happen: but, for the sake of creativity, I continued thinking about what would shock “Lucy” and what I would say. I had originally wanted to begin with ancestors much farther back but believed Lucy was a good starting point for the story and personified her a bit for the sake of the story. If she were around, there would certainly be too much for her to fathom and admittedly I feel as if humans would be eerie to her. Seeming like naked, weak, creatures certainly different from her but also looking too familiar to be determined as completely distinct. Furthermore, I wanted to end with a happy ending and not necessarily paint modern-day humans as the worst possible outcome that our ancestors could have gone through.

We have discussed issues such as racism, misuse of science, and health issues that have affected humans as the course continued but there was still much good that exists. One of the biggest takeaways from the class personally, albeit very early in the course, was the ways in which primates were described as such social creatures. From seeing how different primate groups can have hierarchies or other socially related behaviors, it seems that some level of grouping and social behaviors always exists. I think at the core and most humanistic part that

links modern day humans with ancestors is this social behavior, whether altruism or survival advantages, but wanted to portray that positively.

Works Cited

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