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### **Drugs Take You To Hell Disguised As Heaven**

Truth. Ask anyone today, “What is truth?” and you will almost certainly to spark an interesting conversation. Like knowledge, truth is a bafflingly difficult concept to pin down. We come to depend on it almost every day, and it is quite “close” to us. With that being said, it is extremely difficult to define and it can be challenging, because just when we thought we had it figured out, some cases or counterexamples uncover flaws. The issue is that our understanding of truth is closely linked to our insight of what is true. This indicates which, while we may be able to come up with a realistic definition of truth in the end, however if we decide that no one can get to find out what is true, what is the point of the definition? Truth; in simple terms, it is a statement about how the world actually is. Aristotle (384–322 BCE) made a classic suggestion: “To say of what is that it is, or of what is not that it is not, is true.” To put it in other words, the world provides either “what is” or “what is not”. For the most of us including myself, the truth is influenced by personal opinions, which stem from our upbringing and personal experiences in life. Each and every one of us has a set of unique beliefs, and we construct our lives and realities based on those opinions. Others might also perceive truth based on proven facts and sincerity. Even though we all have our own perceptions on how we perceive truth, we have a desire to assume just about anything and everything regardless of what people say, with or without evidence. At times I even question myself from time to time whether or not those statements are actually the truth. To give an example, it is comforting to think that my best friend of 10 years can be trusted, but is that really true? How is it not possible that my best friend will betray me in some of the the worse-case scenario? Now, heading back to what I aim to concentrate on, “drugs take you to hell disguised as heaven”.

Back in the days when I was a young child, I was told and was even taught in school that drugs can cause serious harm for each and every one of us and it will indeed ruin our lives. So if that is the truth, then why are people still taking these substances on a daily basis, even when they are not for medical reasons? I believe most of us are aware of the consequences for misusing drugs and yet, there will be those who are still denying the truth despite that there are clear scientific evidence to the contrary. It is so cliché when those people actually believe that they will not become

drug addicts after a few attempts. Notwithstanding the harsh penalties, including capital punishment for severe crimes, the number of drug users in Malaysia has been alarmingly on the rise. As the number of users are rapidly increasing, it is with a heavy heart to declare that there are only a handful of addiction rehab treatment centres in Malaysia to fulfil their needs. Therefore, patients seek alternatives to drug rehabs in Malaysia as well as neighbouring countries to aid in their recovery and regain control of their lives.

To be certain, drugs are essentially poisonous. Moreover, the effects are determined by the amount of drugs taken. A lower dose stimulates the body whereas a higher dose acts as a sedative. Despite the dosage, drugs can eventually poison and kill, and that is a fact. Even with low dosage, it has the potential to distort the user's perception of what is going on around an individual. To put it in simple words, drugs have a direct impact on the mind as well as physical state. It will lead one to a dark place which I would refer to as: The Black Hole. A normal person would process information from their memory normally compared to individuals who consume drugs. Drugs will end up causing one's memory to become hazy, most likely to result in blank spots. Thus, a person will be unable to obtain information through the hazy mess. Drugs can make a person feel sluggish and then they can lead to failures in life. Some people consume drugs as an aid to cope with difficulties in life. Personally, I believe this is a lie because using drugs as an aid provides no benefit other than increased hospital bills, which can lead to more difficulties. As with drinking alcohol, having that sluggish feeling can be exhausting once sober and trust me, it is not a very good feeling. As a result, a person's actions may look odd, irrational, inappropriate, or perhaps even destructive. According to David Bowie, a legendary singer, stated that "he saw Lord Jesus was waving at him at his house window" after the effects of Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD) kicked in. Once a drug is consumed, the effects can last anywhere from six to fifteen hours and it all depends on the potency of the drug, the dosage taken, and any other medications the individual is taking. On top of that, the Gustav Elijah case was a destructive one. Gustav Elijah, also known as Lil Peep, was a rapper from the United States. In November 2017, he was killed on a tour bus in Tucson, Arizona. His death has been ruled an accidental overdose of Xanax and Fentanyl by medical examiners. It was a terribly sad tragedy for the young rapper as he just celebrated his 21st birthday not long ago before his death that was caused by drugs. People may disagree to these statements, after all, "one person's truth could be another person's lie." I personally believe that the above statements are true due to the fact that it has been scientifically proven by experts where any one will witness irrational behaviours under the usage of drugs.

In addition, teenagers were polled to figure out how and why they started using drugs in the first place, and 55% were resulted due to peer pressure from their peers. Apparently according to teenagers in this era, consuming drugs are “cool” and it makes them feel as though they “fit in”. It is terribly sad to witness teenagers who have been easily swayed by the influences around them, particularly drug dealers. Since drugs dealers are motivated by profit, they would say anything to entice any one to purchase their narcotics. Like I have mentioned earlier in this essay, we have a strong desire to assume anything and everything, regardless of what others say, with or without evidence. Hence, that may have occurred to not only teenagers but also adults. For drug dealers, money is all that matters and therefore as long as they get paid, they do not show concern if the drugs destroy lives. In fact, dealers use the money they earned to purchase drugs for themselves. Based on an ex-user, “During the whole time I was on drugs, I thought I had control over my life and that I was living it to the fullest. But I shattered everything that I had worked so hard to achieve in my life. I cut links with all of my drug-free friends and family, leaving myself with only my drug buddies as friends. Every day revolved around one thing: my plan for getting the money that I needed for drugs. I would do everything possible to get my Amphetamine, it was the only thing in my life back then.”

Aside from that, the drugs will impair human creativity. One of the most common misconceptions about drugs is that they would help people become more creative. The truth, on the other hand, is quite the opposite. Most rappers use drugs to enhance their creativity, which makes no sense to me given that why would someone rely on substances to enhance their creativity, and how is it considered “creativity” when they are not in the right state of mind? I completely understand that a lack of creative ideas can lead to stress and depression. However, we should not be using drugs as a tool for creativity and again, to cope. Drugs can lull a person into a false sense of happiness, but as the drug wears off, the person plummets even further. And each time, the emotional plunge becomes lower and lower. These harmful substances will eventually destroy all of a person's creativity.

This brings us to the post-truth of drug use. Some people refuse to accept it because it contradicts their understanding, belief, or fantasy of reality. I suppose it is also known as an unacknowledged truth, based on the theory that the ends justify the means. According to my

understanding, it is a deception told for the benefit of someone far more deserving than the truth which destroys the heart of an innocent person. To put it in another way, a truth that breaks one person's heart while relieving the other of the burden of having to carry a lie is and always will be more worthy than a lie.