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“The importance of establishing incontrovertible facts is overestimated. Most knowledge deals in ambiguity.” Discuss this statement with reference to two areas of knowledge.

When something is incontrovertible, it means that it is not able to be denied or disputed. Being ambiguous refers to the ability to be interpreted in more than one way. Hence, the statement in the prescribe title is stating that the process of exploring and proving facts that are undeniable is estimated to be more significant than it actually is, when actually more knowledge comes from the ability to put more than one interpretation of a topic. This statement can be discussed through the two areas of knowledge Religious Indigenous Systems and The Arts through the ways of knowing such as imagination, reason, language and intuition.

In terms of religion, the idea of God had been studied for years, yet the knowledge of his existence remain ambiguous. Scientists collect data and information that can support both for against the idea of God’s existence, therefore making God a concept in which we humans have numerous interpretations on. Hence, knowledge of the existence of God remain ambiguous. This can be seen through the various holy books of various religions such as the Bible for Christians, the Quran for Muslims, the Torah for Jews, etc. all of which defines God differently. For example, Christianity believes that Jesus died for the sake of human’s sins. Islam believes that followers are required to carry out religious practices such as praying five times a day and fasting to honour God. Judaism believes that individuals have their own personal relationship with God, thus making it a covenant relationship. This perfectly conveys the ambiguity of the idea of God itself due to its many interpretations in different religions. As a result, it creates a knowledge where individuals are able to understand God in any way they want to, based on their imagination from their beliefs.

However, the idea of God needs to be explored through logical reasoning to set a permanent recognition and acceptance worldwide in order to prevent disagreements and conflicts. For example, in a debate between evolutionist, Reinhold Schlieter, and evangelist, Kent Hovind, they seem to show difficulties in setting a parameter for the debate due to two different understandings of the topic. Schlieter commented on how spiritual matter is related to material matter through space and time. He asks Hovind how many angels (spiritual) can stand on the tip of a pen (material) and therefore believes that this theory is not valid enough to prove the existence of God. Hovind responded by stating that God does not apply to space, time and matter. Time, space and matter, also known as a continuum, has to come to existence at the same instant for something to exist. The Bible does indeed display a continuum where in the *beginning* (time), God created *Heaven* (space), and *Earth* (matter) however God, or at least the God he believed in, is not limited by any of this. He gave an example by saying that the person who created the computer does not live inside the computer but rather outside. Hence, he concluded that God exists outside of our universe. With that being said, although ambiguity provides further knowledge on a certain topic, it makes it harder to establish it at times where parameters need to be set. The ambiguity of the existence of God allows individuals to interpret God in various ways, but these different opinions may cause disagreements and conflicts.

The statement relates to the Arts as well in terms of literature, since the meaning of a text may be interpreted in different ways due to the ambiguity of the topic it alludes to. For example, just by the use of language, John Steinbeck is able to create a setting in the opening scene of 'Of Mice and Men' where he describes the peacefulness of a river in Soledad. There had been analyses of this scene relating to the Garden of Eden from the Bible, where it similarly displays a scene of tranquility and calmness. Other interpretations, however, states that George and Lennie's dream farm is an allusion to the Garden of Eden as well since it is their idea of paradise. From this we can see that we obtain more knowledge towards the text due to its ambiguity.

However, before making conclusions about 'Of Mice and Men' and the Garden of Eden, audiences need to first understand the standard concept of the Garden itself. They are required to use their intuition to recognise the criteria or the features that make up the Garden of Eden. We know that the Garden of Eden is calm, clean, surrounded with fresh trees and so on. Without this basic description, people would have a different picture of what the Garden of Eden looks like in their head, therefore making such interpretations non-existent in the first place. As a result, we need a basic establishment towards incontrovertible facts in order to make further analysis on a particular subject. With that being said, the meaning of a text may be interpreted in various ways, as long as there is a basic establishment on the concept in which the text relates to to make additional understanding.

To summarise, religious indigenous systems and the arts agree on the statement "The importance of establishing incontrovertible facts is overestimated. Most knowledge deals in ambiguity." to a moderate extent. This is because there are counter assertions that contrast its claims. In terms of religion, the ambiguity of the existence of God allows individuals to interpret God in various ways yet may cause difference in opinion. In terms of the arts, the meaning of a text may be interpreted in various ways, as long as there is a core understanding of the basic concept of the topic.

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