

## - SAMPLE ONLY -

### CRIME AND PUNISHMENT: THE MEANS OR THE END?

One of the most controversial issues in ~~the~~ society that has prevailed over the attempts of many debaters is the choice between which ~~one~~ is more important: the means or the end. This debate has been ~~often~~ tackled in various ways, and ~~it~~ is reflected in ~~the actual society settings~~, as well as in classic literature and movies. Such a dramatic display of both sides ~~of the debate of the issue~~ proves that ~~this issue~~ impacts ~~the~~ society in more ways than ~~you~~ might initially ~~realize~~ guess. ~~Upon~~ At closer ~~investigation~~ look, however, ~~you~~ will ~~learn~~ realize just how important a role ~~much~~ this debate plays into ~~to~~ even the everyday lives of people worldwide.

~~Many famous people and figures in history and literature provide~~ ~~The classic~~ examples of this issue ~~include famous people and figures in history and literature~~. Who can forget Napoleon, ~~a man who thought that he~~ ~~who failed to believe that he~~ was ~~not~~ wrong in the moral sense? He ~~attempted to~~ justify ~~his~~ actions by ~~saying~~ declaring that he was somehow above ~~society's~~ ~~the moral restrictions~~. ~~society and its moral restrictions~~. ~~Being~~ Napoleon felt that the fact ~~that someone who was~~ ~~he was~~ given a significant role in ~~the~~ society, ~~to~~ Napoleon, ~~this~~ somehow excused him from the societal rules that bound everyone else. ~~We can also see this issue~~ ~~This issue is also evident~~ in Victor Hugo's, *Les Miserables*, ~~when~~ Jean Valjean ~~s,~~ ~~in his hunger and desperation,~~ ~~stole~~ ~~teals~~ a loaf of bread out of hunger and desperation and ~~was~~ punished gravely ~~for it~~. However, who can say that the punishment did not fit the crime, ~~given that,~~ ~~when~~ he ~~really~~ ~~actually~~ ~~stole~~ ~~did~~ steal, which was against the law? ~~Was~~ his desperation a valid reason for him to steal? ~~In slightly the same light~~ Similarly, Robin Hood stole from the rich to help the poor. Which should be a valid basis for the judgment of one's acts, the means or the end?

Given all these examples, ~~there is~~ no one ~~that probably~~ dramatically emphasizes this debate better than Rodion Romanovich Raskolnikov, the broken hero of

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Fyodor Dostoevsky's Russian philosophical novel, *Crime and Punishment*. In ~~his~~ the novel, Dostoevsky ~~make~~ ~~se~~ several allusions to Napoleon as Raskolnikov ~~tried~~ to justify the crime ~~that~~ he ~~had~~ committed. Raskolnikov was a student who lived in extreme poverty in St. Petersburg ~~and~~. ~~He~~ murdered an infamous pawnbroker. ~~He~~; ~~stole~~ ~~took~~ her money to solve his financial problems, and at the same time, ~~believed~~ ~~thought~~ ~~that~~ he was doing the world a favor by killing a hated individual. However, in the process of the murder, the pawnbroker's sister ~~arrive~~ ~~d~~ at the scene and also ~~had~~ to be killed. Throughout the novel, Raskolnikov ~~justify~~ ~~d~~ ~~the~~ ~~his~~ murder of the pawnbroker based on the ~~reasons~~ ~~fact~~ that he did it; not only for ~~money for himself~~ ~~the money for himself~~, but also for the common good. ~~It is the~~ ~~The~~ incidental death of the pawnbroker's sister ~~that~~ ~~wreak~~ ~~ed~~ havoc on his conscience; and ~~drove him to~~ ~~causes him~~ a mental anguish over the morality of what he did not intend to do. As he ~~battle~~ ~~d~~ with his conscience, he slowly ~~came close to~~ ~~starts to~~ ~~lose~~ ~~ing~~ his sanity. With the help of Sonya, a prostitute he ~~loves~~ ~~fell in love with~~, Raskolnikov eventually ~~confess~~ ~~ed~~ the crime and ~~was~~ imprisoned in Siberia; as ~~a~~ punishment.

Beyond the surface of the story, ~~however~~, the novel ~~provide~~ ~~s~~ ~~give~~ insight ~~in~~ to the deepest realms of the psychology behind an appalling crime that was driven by ~~a~~ ~~good~~ ~~end~~ ~~good~~ ~~intentions~~. The novel ~~highlight~~ ~~ed~~ the emotional and mental effects of a crime on the murderer himself. Nowhere else is the debate over which has more weight, the means or the end, more dramatically and profoundly ~~expressed~~ ~~delved~~ ~~into~~ than in the novel. It is to be noted, however, that Raskolnikov believed that the means, no matter how bad, justified the end. He believed this until the ~~very~~ end of the novel. The only source of his anguish was over his murder of the pawnbroker's sister, an innocent victim who he ~~never~~ ~~did~~ ~~not~~ ~~mean~~ ~~intend~~ to kill. On the other hand, he was at peace with what he did to the pawnbroker, and never once agonized over the intentional crime. ~~As~~ ~~a~~ ~~whole~~, ~~he~~ however, he had to confess and ~~accept~~ ~~his~~ ~~take~~ ~~a~~ punishment because his actions were not justified. ~~A~~, after all, ~~because~~ he also took an innocent life in the process. Although he was imprisoned after ~~he~~ ~~confessing~~ ~~his~~ ~~action~~ ~~ed~~ ~~what~~

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~~he did~~, Raskolnikov's true punishment was ~~the~~his psychological anguish he suffered over whether his actions were or were not justified ~~or not~~.

*Crime and Punishment* ~~still gives~~continues to provide ~~several an~~ insights into criminal psychology in the modern setting. The novel's depiction of a motive behind the crime, and how a criminal views~~sees~~ his actions can lend very important insights to the current justice system ~~nowadays~~. Again, we see this debate epitomized in ~~the real-life~~ crimes such as~~of~~ stealing, killing, and even terrorism. Most robberies are driven by a desperate need of money, and terrorists justify their actions by ~~saying claiming that~~ they are fighting for a certain particular cause. Some murders~~killings~~ are driven~~motivated~~ by psychological problems. One such example is the infamous zodiac killer, who left cryptic letters for the police to find. These letters, ~~which~~ led them to the conclusion that the killer was psychologically incapacitated. Who, then, can judge his actions when everyone knew that he was not in the correct frame of mind to understand~~know~~ what he was doing? In his mind, ~~what he was doing was~~ he justified his actions by whatever reasons his incapacitated mind provided~~gave him~~.

In ~~the novel~~*Crime and Punishment*, Raskolnikov was eventually punished by the justice system ~~through an and~~ imprisonment. He was not excused for his crime, and the good end to which it led was not accepted~~taken~~ as a valid reason. In today's~~the~~ world of crime and punishment ~~today~~, how do we really evaluate a person's~~one's~~ guilt? Are criminals really bad people? Another question also follows: how do we determine an appropriate~~one's~~ punishment?

~~In~~ By evaluating past crimes and the ensuing punishments ~~they led to~~, it seems that the winning side of the debate appears to ~~have~~ yes been determined. The morality in the issue involves winning the battle. No crime is justified by a good intention. No means is justified by a good end. The means outweigh~~over~~ the end.

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However, another issue can be linked to this debate. The controversy over the justification of the death penalty as a criminal sentence can be closely associated with this debate. Ironically, when you study~~looking at~~ both issues carefully, the death penalty appears~~seems~~ to reveal~~show~~ the other side of the debate. ~~∅~~The death penalty has an honorable~~good~~ end: to punish a criminal in the same manner~~way~~ that he committed the crime. However, the means to this seemingly good end is also~~as well~~ death. How, then, can we~~that be~~ justify this~~punishment~~? Common sense would~~tells~~ us that if the killing of an~~individual~~someone, regardless of what~~the motives are~~, is~~is~~ morally wrong and is~~is~~ inexcusably punishable, then those who execute criminals through the death penalty should also~~be~~ subject to the same punishment.

The “means or the end” debate still prevails as ~~some~~ people continue to look~~at~~investigate both sides of the story. Why is it that these~~these~~ criminals, who~~who~~ performed contemptible acts that were driven by an honorable~~good~~ purpose, are almost always depicted as heroes? We can see this in the aforementioned~~given~~ examples, such as Napoleon, Robin Hood, Jean Valjean, and Raskolnikov. Even if modern~~our~~ society shows us that a crime should~~be~~ punished regardless~~of no matter the what~~ good~~honorable~~ motives that may be behind it, history and literature seems~~to tell~~ us otherwise.