



Simpson Scholars Curiosity Essay

1. "God created things which had free will. That means creatures which can go wrong or right... If a thing is free to be good it's also free to be bad. And free will is what has made evil possible. Why, then, did God give them free will? Because free will, though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having. Of course God knew what would happen if they used their freedom the wrong way: apparently, God thought it worth the risk... If God thinks this state of war in the universe a price worth paying for free will—that is, for making a real world in which creatures can do real good or harm and something of real importance can happen, instead of a toy world which only moves when God pulls the strings—then we may take it, it is worth paying."

2. "'The best thing for being sad,' replied Merlin, beginning to puff and blow, 'is to learn something. That's the only thing that never fails. You may grow old and trembling in your anatomies, you may lie awake at night listening to the disorder of your veins, you may miss your only love, you may see the world about you devastated by evil lunatics, or know your honour trampled in the sewers of baser minds. There is only one thing for it then — to learn. Learn why the world wags and what wags it. That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting. Learning is the only thing for you. Look what a lot of things there are to learn.'"

This first quote, by C.S. Lewis in *The Case for Christianity*, explores the question of free will and the problem of evil. The second is a quote from Merlin to a young Arthur in T.H White's *The Once and Future King*, which offers a perspective on the importance of learning and curiosity in our lives. By attending Simpson University and applying to the *Simpson Scholars*, you have made a choice to dedicate a significant portion of your life to learning at a Christ-centered institution. So, in 400 to 500 words, use these quotes to explain why you have made this decision and then explore the role that learning and curiosity have played in your life. In particular, address the role of curiosity as it relates to your understanding and experiences of faith. To conclude, briefly explore how you hope your Simpson journey and being a *Simpson Scholar* will continue to grow your curiosity.

To apply for the *Simpson Scholars* honor program, students should submit their 400-500 word essay in response to the above prompt by the deadline posted online at simpsonu.edu/simpsonscholars. Essays should be sent as an attached document to Dr. Timothy Orr: torr@simpsonu.edu.

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