



Research Article

THE TRANSPARENT INSIGHTS IN HUMAN CONDITIONS AND BEHAVIOR IN THE MYTHS OF 'THE TALE OF BEAUTIFUL PSYCHE' AND 'PHILEMON AND BAUCIS'

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ABSTRACT

Human conditions and behavior can be defined as the various human activities that are explored by psychologists. These conditions and behavior usually result from the psychological mechanisms that take place in the human brain. The two myths, 'The Tale of Beautiful Psyche' and 'Philemon and Baucis', are important in describing human behavior as viewed by psychologists. The aim of this paper is to provide insights on the human conditions and behaviors portrayed in the two myths in a psychological perspective. The analysis of the two myths is based on the universal themes demonstrated by the characters in order to bring out the relationships and differences in human behaviors. The paper examines the human conditions and behavior as presented by the characters in each myth and then explores the differences and similarities between the identified themes. Some of the identified themes include egoism, attachment, sacrifice, jealousy, skepticism, self-determination, commitment, philanthropy, and altruistic behavior. The paper adds knowledge regarding human conditions and behaviors portrayed by the two myths.

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INTRODUCTION

'The Tale of Beautiful Psyche' and 'Philemon and Baucis' are Greek myths that reflect universal themes. Not only do universal themes which are conceptual ideas portray the details of particular texts, but they also go beyond these details. Moreover, universal themes demonstrate the shared emotions that are common to human experiences and allow learners to make connections between disciplines and relate them to real life situations (Hill, 2014). The universal themes further allow learners to examine the relationship between concepts and get knowledge particularly in human conditions and behavior. Furthermore, different themes emerge from the two myths which are portrayed in different ways.

The word behavior is generally used to refer to diverse activities such as sleep, problem-solving, reactions to stress, learning, memory, processing of information, perceptions or other activities that psychologists are interested in studying (Andreassi, 2013). Within this context, human behavior has been explored in a variety of ways particularly in the field of psychology and sociology. In 1951, Carl Rodgers, a human psychologist, explained that humans have limitless internal resources that drive their self-driven and self-understanding behaviors. Carl explained that the perfect interpersonal conditions that provide a platform for individuals to use these resources are empathy, warmth, and genuineness. He further emphasized that all humans should be handled with dignity (Hutchison, 2012).

Psychologists define human behavior as the outcomes of internal psychological mechanisms that occur in the human

brain. For instance, cognitive psychology explains human behaviors in terms of how humans think (Sperry, 2016). Within this context, the psychological view of human behaviors and conditions can be explained by drawing illustrations from the two myths examined in this study. A brief description of the two myths is presented below.

In the myth 'The Tale of Beautiful Psyche', human behaviors and conditions are portrayed by four characters; Psyche, Cupid, Psyche's sisters, and Venus. Psyche was very beautiful that people who were attracted to her worshiped her; whereas, they failed to accord the expected honor and worship to their goddess of love, Venus. Out of jealousy, Venus appointed Cupid, her son, to take revenge on Psyche. She requested Cupid to pierce Psyche with her arrow so that she fell in love with the most unpleasant man. However, Cupid scratched himself with his arrow and fell in love with Psyche instead. Psyche's sisters got married, while Psyche failed to get a man to marry her. Therefore, her father sought advice from the Oracle of Delphi who advised him to abandon Psyche at the top of a crag to meet her destined groom, a dragon-like creature. Psyche was thus dressed in funeral attire and left near a crag where she fell asleep. After a while, she woke up and found herself in a beautiful palace. Cupid visited her every night and forbade her to seek his identity. Out of trust, Psyche did not see her husband's face as agreed. However, Psyche's sisters paid her a visit and advised her to reveal the identity of her husband. Psyche lit a lamp at night and identified her husband was Cupid, but unfortunately, she spilled hot oil which awakened Cupid. Drastically, Cupid flew away leaving Psyche alone. Psyche embarked on a struggle to

have Cupid again. Venus punished her by giving her difficult tasks to accomplish, but Psyche was so determined that she managed to accomplish the tasks given. Cupid and Psyche were eventually reunited and married. Psyche gave birth to a daughter called Pleasure (Berns & Bradshaw, 2007).

The myth of 'Philemon and Baucis' revolved around the interaction of an old couple with gods upon visiting them when disguised as ordinary travelers seeking help. The gods, Zeus and Hermes, visited all people in the town seeking for accommodation, but it was in vain. Philemon and Baucis welcomed them in their simple home and prepared them a simple meal. The couple also served their visitors the half-full flask of wine. However, Baucis realized that the flask did not run out of wine even after serving the guests. Moreover, Philemon was willing to slaughter the only goose they had. The couple noticed that the visitors were gods who wanted to destroy the village due to the peoples' misconduct. The couple mourned for the destruction of their village and death of their neighbors. As a result of their generosity, the couple was granted favors by the gods who kept them saved during the destruction of the town and gave them their wish of being guards of the temple. The couple further wished that they should die together, a wish that was also granted (Westmoreland, 2007).

The paper focuses on describing the human behaviors reflected in the two myths in a psychological perspective. The paper will further discuss the similarities and differences of the human conditions and behaviors as portrayed in the two myths. Therefore, the paper will offer transparent insights in human behavior and conditions as viewed by psychologists while drawing illustrations from the two myths.

## **DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

### **Human Conditions and Behavior in 'The Tale of the Beautiful Psyche'**

The myth 'The Beautiful Psyche' is basically a love story that demonstrates various kinds of human behavior. This myth reflects egoism, attachment, sacrifice, jealousy, skepticism, self-determination, and commitment. This section provides psychological view of the human behavior as presented in the myth.

#### ***Egoism***

Egoism is the justification of an issue based on self-interest. Psychology describes egoism as the descriptive opinion that all actions done by humans are motivated by self-interest. Egoism in a psychological perspective explains the way people behave and not the way they are expected to behave. Psychological egoism, therefore, makes a strong universal claim that all human actions are driven by self-interest while disputing that humans can perform an action as a result of altruism (Driver, 2013). It is noted that psychological egoism is a theory which posits that all human ultimate desires are self-directed. Hence, human beings care about the wellbeing of others only when they believe that other people's welfare affects them (Nadelhoffer, Nahmias, & Nichols, 2010). Psychologists, for example, could argue that if people donate money for charity, the action may seem altruistic but in the real sense, the people are doing it to portray their financial power and to support a project or system that has the potential

of helping them in the future. However, psychological egoism could be viewed as beneficial to individuals (Driver, 2013).

In the myth 'The Tale of Beautiful Psyche', egoism is demonstrated by Psyche's sisters who urged Psyche to reveal the identity of her husband. Psyche followed their advice and when Cupid slept, she lit a lamp. Unfortunately, Cupid woke up and flew away. This eventually led to Psyche's punishment (Yuasa, 2016). It is evident that the advice of her sisters was not well intentioned; it was for their own interests. The sisters were envious of Psyche's palace and hence they deceived her (Yuasa, 2016).

In another scenario, Psyche's mother-in-law gave Psyche difficult tasks to carry out in order to get her forgiveness for hurting Cupid and regain Cupid's love. In the real sense, Venus wanted to permanently separate Cupid and Psyche as part of her revenge. She, therefore, did it for her own interests. This portrays an egoistic behavior.

#### ***Attachment***

Attachment refers to the bond that individuals have towards each other. Attachment can take different aspects depending on the relationship between the individuals. The myth demonstrates two forms of attachment: attachment between mother and son and attachment between individuals in romance.

#### ***Attachment between mother and son***

In a psychological perspective, the bond between a mother and an infant is the major demonstration of the evolutionary function of positive emotion in the survival of species. Attachment is, therefore, seen as a bond based on emotion where the value of the attachment affects the child in the long-term regardless of whether it is a secure or an insecure bond (Meadows, 2013). The attachment behavior brings the infant closer to other people and especially to the caregiver who in most cases is the mother. This attachment is demonstrated through signaling behaviors such as crying, calling, and smiling (Ainsworth, Blehar, Waters, & Wall, 2015). When infants smile to their mothers, they portray the good feeling they experience. The smile further prompts care from their mothers. This brings about the healthy attachment between the children and their mothers. A secure attachment allows children to separate from their mothers without difficulty and anxiety and to interact with other infants in the absence of the mothers (Meadows, 2013).

In the myth, the attachment is evident between Cupid and his mother, Venus, who approached her son in a loving manner and requested him for a favor which is for Cupid to pierce Psyche with her arrow so that she fell in love with the most unpleasant man. Cupid set out to accomplish his mother's request (Relihan, 2009). Venus and Cupid demonstrated a kind of attachment that is very strong. To start with, Venus' approach to her son is a demonstration of the bond between them. The approach is that of a loving mother. On the other hand, Cupid did not deny his mother the favor. He set out to accomplish his mother's request without asking any questions.

#### ***Attachment between Cupid and Psyche***

Adult attachment is another kind of attachment that is demonstrated by two people who are in a romantic relationship. The adult attachment theory explains the

attachment that is observed in romantic and sexual relationships that are characterized by intimacy. It further elaborates the role of joy with regard to love in intimate relationships. Similar to the case of infants and their mothers, intimate partners depend on kissing, mutual gazing, face-to-face and skin contact, and cuddling which lead to attachment. It is evident that the effect of physical contact between mothers and their infants is the same as between lovers. Attachment, therefore, is very crucial in promoting the bond between individuals of different sexes, initially through infatuation and as the relationship grows, through attachment (Meadows, 2013). This kind of attachment is demonstrated by Psyche and Cupid. Rather than Cupid carrying out revenge on Psyche as requested by his mother, he fell in love. (cross our with Psyche). He placed her in a palace and visited her every night. They were so attached to each other that in spite of the fact that Psyche had never seen Cupid, she trusted him as her husband.

According to adults, secure attachment allows individuals to get close to each other, trust each other, and feel comfortable with mutual dependence. This kind of attachment leads to the longest-lasting relationships (Weiten, 2017). Psyche and Cupid demonstrated a secure attachment. When Cupid flew away and abandoned Psyche due to her distrust, Psyche felt very lonely and was unable to cope with life. She even threw herself into a river so that she would drown. Psyche felt so helpless that she had to swallow her pride and confront Venus whom she had offended.

Psychologists explain that in case there is a threat of separation, anger is triggered with a negative reinforcement developed to ensure that the attachment bond is not broken (Holmes, 2014). This is demonstrated when Cupid failed to hurt Psyche as requested by the mother, but instead he protected her. Even after Psyche opened the box she had taken from the underworld and fell asleep, Cupid accompanied her to present the box to Venus. This a kind of rebellion that Cupid develops towards his mother with the aim of getting Psyche back. Cupid's rebellion plays a significant role in ensuring that the attachment bond between him and Psyche is not broken.

### ***Sacrifice***

Sacrifice in psychology is not related to morality. It is viewed as placing others before oneself. However, sacrifice is not a denial of oneself. Psychologists argue that it is impossible to have sacrifice without a sense of 'me'. Sacrifice simply involves giving out something that belongs to an individual. Therefore, sacrifice is characterized by the ability of individuals to go beyond the limits of the individual self (Águeda & Neto, 2013). Sacrifice involves giving out something that is treasured with the hope of receiving something more precious. Ordinary sacrifices made voluntarily by people in most cases are trade-offs (Clayton & Myers, 2015). In the myth 'The Tale of Beautiful Psyche', sacrifice is portrayed in two dimensions; that is, as a compensation to pay off guilt and as giving without expecting to receive anything in return.

### ***Compensation to pay-off guilt***

After hurting Cupid, Psyche became desperate and helpless. She decided to approach Venus, Cupid's mother, to seek forgiveness. Psyche was given four tasks by Venus a

punishment. These included sorting all seeds that were heaped up in a room, to getting fleece from rams while they were running up and down all over the field and hitting each other, filling a crystal flask with water from a river which ran in continual cycles, and finally going to the underworld to bring Venus a box full of beauty ointment from Persephone, the goddess of the underworld.

Psyche had to accomplish the tasks as required by Venus because of her guilt. She carried out the tasks despite her despair at the beginning. Psyche was determined to carry out the tasks in order to seek forgiveness from Venus. In a psychological perspective, Psyche was willing to sacrifice her ego and carry out the tasks as required by Venus. However, she needed Cupid's love more than forgiveness from Venus. She was probably carrying out the tasks with the hope of having Cupid back, which she could only achieve after being forgiven by Venus.

### ***Giving without receiving***

Psyche accepted her father's request at the beginning of the tale she had to be abandoned at the top of the mountain to meet her fate. Psyche knew very well that she would probably die. Her father had to fulfill the advice given to him by the Oracle at Delphi, and so Psyche chose to accept the advice without expecting any reward in return. Psyche sacrificed her life for her father. In another scenario, Psyche accepted Cupid's request for not seeing him. Cupid made love to her every night, yet Psyche never made any efforts to see him. Thus, she made a sacrifice by accepting to trust an invisible husband.

### ***Jealousy***

Jealousy is the emotional reaction that individuals have towards a threat of losing a valued relationship to a rival especially when the rival is competing for commitment, attention or affection. Moreover, jealousy is an aspect of interest among psychologists and is viewed as a combination of emotions of anger, anxiety, betrayal, and hurt that will probably lead to a disturbing experience (Weiner & Craighead, 2010). Jealousy makes people feel that they have been exempted from love and left out of an intimate relationship that they treasure. Jealousy is accompanied by a feeling of loss, pain and sadness, humiliation, and shame. Jealousy may result in the desire for revenge (Wurmser & Jarass, 2011).

In the myth, Venus, the goddess of beauty, was jealous of Psyche's beauty, thus she set out to punish her (Yuasa, 2016). Venus' jealousy towards Psyche was attributed to the fact that Psyche was so beautiful that people only accorded her respect. Consequently, Venus viewed Psyche as a rival and competitor who intended to outdo her.

The motives and dynamics that yield jealous reactions and feelings can be defined in various theories including sex differences, self-esteem, attachment styles or disposition, and learned cultural and social expectations. Jealousy involves intense psychological torture and may lead to maladaptive and hostile reactions. Psychologists explain that jealousy is not an emotion but rather a combination of fluctuating feelings of disgust, sadness, fear, and anger. Moreover, psychologists argue that feelings like shame, embarrassment, and envy, and jealousy are examples of a social emotion (Weiner & Craighead, 2010).

In the myth, this is evident in Venus' words when she explained that her dignity and name are divided with a mortal girl. She viewed Psyche as a rival who took her honor and therefore decided to take revenge on her (Relihan, 2009). In another scenario, Psyche's sisters were jealous of her beautiful palace and her husband who was Cupid, the son of a goddess. They, therefore, deceived her into distrusting her husband and taking her place (Yuasa, 2016).

### ***Skepticism***

The psychological view of skepticism is that all claims that are thought to be true are doubtful and have to be questioned. All conclusions made, therefore, need to be corrected (King, Woody, & Viney, 2015). Skepticism in the tale of the beautiful Psyche is portrayed when Psyche distrusts her husband. Following the advice of her sisters, Psyche believed that she had to see Cupid in order to believe in their love. This distrust led Psyche to light a lamp while Cupid was asleep and identify him (Relihan, 2009). Skepticism is, therefore, a good strategy for identifying problems and hence an important aspect of adding knowledge (King et al., 2015). If it hadn't been for her skepticism, Psyche could have continued being in a relationship with a husband she did not know. Her skepticism played a great role in helping her know the true identity of her husband.

### ***Self-Determination***

Psychologists have developed a self-determination theory which explains that motivation among humans varies from an autonomous one to a more controlled one. There are different types of motivation which include intrinsic motivation, extrinsic motivation, and a motivation which has different effects on performance (Olsson, 2008). Extrinsic motivation, demonstrated in the myth, is the tendency of performing activities in order to receive external rewards which could be physical or psychological (Brown, 2007). Therefore, extrinsic motivation is portrayed when individuals do things with the aim of attaining rewards or benefits but not because they enjoy doing the activity (Olsson, 2008). Moreover, extrinsic motivation involves engaging in doing an activity basically for instrumental reasons (Horn, 2008). In the myth, Psyche, who was given difficult tasks by Venus, was willing to accomplish them in order to gain Cupid's love and acquire forgiveness from Venus. Although the tasks were not easy, Psyche didn't give up. However, she still went on with her main motivation for carrying out the tasks to regain her husband's love.

Self-determination can also be aimed at achieving psychological rewards (Olsson, 2008). Venus was motivated to torture Psyche in order to accomplish her revenge against her. She went ahead to give her difficult tasks with the motivation that Psyche would give up her love for Cupid. By doing this, Venus accomplished her revenge against Psyche.

### ***Epitome of commitment***

Commitment is the decision and intention that individuals make to maintain a relationship without considering the challenges and expenses. Commitment is comprised of a short-term and a long-term aspect. The short-term aspect of a relationship involves the decision to love someone while the long-term aspect of the relationship involves the motivation to assist the relationship to endure even in cases of hardships (Weiten, 2017).

In the tale, commitment is demonstrated when Cupid helped Psyche when she opened the box that she got from the underworld and fell asleep. In spite of being harmed by Psyche, Cupid was still in love with her. He pricked her with a harmless arrow and swept the sleep from Psyche's eyes and returned it into the box. He also took Psyche to present the box to Venus. Cupid further presented the request to marry Psyche to Jupiter, who agreed in return.

### ***Human Conditions and Behavior in 'Baucis and Philemon'***

The myth 'Baucis and Philemon' is a short tale that demonstrates the behavior of human beings. The myth reflects self-determination, philanthropy, and altruistic behavior. This section discusses the human behavior that is portrayed in the myth in a psychological perspective.

### ***Altruistic behavior***

Altruistic actions are done for the sake of others (Driver, 2013). Psychological altruism is defined as motivation with the intention of increasing another person's welfare and putting other people's interest before one's own. Unlike sacrifice, altruism involves morality. It may further be considered as helping other people in order to obtain internal rewards other than external ones. Helping other people in order to benefit internally results to gaining a good feeling and avoiding guilt or negative feelings that may be caused by witnessing another person suffering. Loving and caring are almost synonymous and they routinely result in altruistic behavior (De Cremer, Zeelenberg, & Murnighan, 2013).

Altruistic behavior in the myth is demonstrated by Baucis and his wife, who genuinely cared about the positive welfare of others. Baucis and Philemon, an elderly couple, welcomed the two gods, Zeus and Hermes, who had disguised themselves as lowly, dirty and mortal travelers looking for shelter for the night. The couple was so hospitable that they offered the visitors everything they had in their home. The couple was so loving and caring that they offered the guests the only half-full flask of wine that they had (Westmoreland, 2007). This couple did all this without expecting anything in return. They were willing to use everything they had in their home in order to keep the visitors comfortable, satisfied, and entertained.

### ***Self-determination***

Intrinsic motivation is a type of self-determination that is portrayed when individuals perform activities for self-satisfaction and enjoyment that is achieved through participation in the activity. People who are motivated intrinsically look for more challenges and utilize their capabilities to learn new things; consequently, they feel that some tasks are inherently enjoyable, challenging or significant. They do not merely feel obliged to complete these activities (Olsson, 2008). Intrinsically motivated individuals perform activities for inherent satisfaction or pleasure (Brown, 2007).

In the tale 'Philemon and Baucis', intrinsic motivation is demonstrated by how Baucis and his wife were determined to accomplish their deed by accepting to receive the gods as their guests. The couple was not apologetic for not having sumptuous dishes; they simply offered a few seasoned boiled eggs, green olives that were dipped in oil, goat cheese that was white grated, sliced apples, and wine and red radishes. The couple seemed to enjoy serving the visitors and they

accommodated them without complaining (Westmoreland, 2007). Baucis and Philemon were motivated to serve the visitors as for the satisfaction they got. From the myth, it is evident that the couple did not expect that the poor travelers had anything to offer, yet they found joy in helping them. This is evident from the surprise they got on realizing that the guests were gods.

### ***Philanthropy***

Philanthropy is a Greek term that refers to 'love of mankind'. Psychologists define philanthropy as the goodwill for other people especially with the aim of promoting human welfare. Philanthropy includes providing humanitarian aid or help to people in need, creating opportunities for other people to help themselves and solve their own problems, and setting aside resources and efforts to help in order to facilitate social and economic changes (Belgrave & Allison, 2009). Philemon and Baucis show philanthropy through welcoming and offering humanitarian support to the lowly travelers. The couple offered the travelers all they had without complaining. Baucis showed her empathy by willing to slaughter a goose that guarded their home for the visitors to eat. Philanthropy is further demonstrated when the couple grieved and cried a lot when the gods told them their mission. The couple mourned the loss of their neighbors (Westmoreland, 2007). It is obvious that the couple portrayed great love and concern for people.

### ***Epitome of a commitment***

Commitment is described as the extent to which people are psychologically attached to a relationship and have the intention for it to persist and have a long-term orientation towards it. Individuals who are highly committed invest and depend on their relationship more; they are willing to sacrifice for their partner. Highly committed individuals are less interested in possible alternatives to their relationship (Forgas, Scholar, Baumeister, & Tice, 2011).

Commitment is demonstrated in the myth through the aspect of love in marriage. When Baucis and Philemon were asked by the gods to make a wish, they requested to be allowed to go on living on love. They also wished that they would both guard the temple and that they would both die at the same time such that they would not have to mourn when the time came for them to die. Upon their demise, the couple turned into intertwined trees that looked as if they were bidding each other goodbye (Westmoreland, 2007). Baucis and Philemon were so committed in their marriage that they did not want to be separated by any circumstances, not even death. They cared about each other and did everything together.

### ***Similarity of the Human Behavior in the Two Myths***

The myths 'The Tale of Beautiful Psyche' and 'Philemon and Baucis' share several similarities in human behavior and conditions. Some are similar among the characters in the two myths such as commitment and self-determination.

### ***Commitment***

Both myths present human beings to have an epitome of commitment. This means that human beings reflect their commitment in relationships and later in marriage. Committed couples are willing to endure the hardships of their relationships together as demonstrated by Cupid and Psyche and Baucis and Philemon. Cupid was committed to his

relationship such that he visited Psyche every night without hurting her. Even after Psyche hurt him later in the tale, Cupid still nursed his wounds and went ahead to help Psyche who had disobeyed the tower's advice.

Baucis and Philemon were committed in their relationship. Their commitment was demonstrated by the harmony and peace they maintained throughout the tale. There was no evidence of an argument in their interactions. The couple did everything in unity and love. They were committed to helping their guests; each one of them played a specific role to satisfy their guests. Additionally, Philemon and Baucis were so committed that they wanted to die together because they weren't willing to mourn in case one of them died.

Both tales demonstrate that commitment in relationships is rewarding. Commitment is an important aspect in every relationship. Philemon and Baucis requested the gods to allow them to die together. The couple ended up receiving their wish from the gods. In the case of Cupid and Psyche, they received consent to marry from Jupiter and Venus as a result of their commitment to ensuring that their relationship thrived.

### ***Self-determination***

In the two tales, self-determination is a common aspect. The characters had the motivation to carry out various activities either to receive rewards or get self-satisfaction. The desire for Cupid's love and Venus' forgiveness prompted Psyche to accomplish tasks that seemed impossible to her. Similarly, Philemon and Baucis had the motivation to welcome guests to their home and serve them with all they had with the aim of achieving satisfaction and ultimate joy.

In both cases, self-determination is rewarding. Psyche finally received the ultimate reward as a result of her determination. Psyche's determination allowed her to get win back her husband's love. Baucis and Philemon's determination was further rewarded when Baucis and Philemon were awarded their wishes of being guardians of the temple. In addition, they were granted the wish of dying together.

### ***Differences between Human Behaviors in the Two Myths***

There are several notable differences in human behavior in the two myths. The differences are important in bringing out a psychological comparison between human conditions and behavior. The differences between the human behaviors as portrayed in the two myths are examined in this section. These include motivation and skepticism.

### ***Motivation***

The two myths present the theme of motivation. However, there is a difference in the type of motivation portrayed by the characters in the myths. In 'the Tale of Beautiful Psyche', Psyche is extrinsically motivated to accomplish all the tasks given to her by Venus for getting forgiveness and winning back Cupid's love. This kind of motivation is different from that of Venus. Venus was intrinsically motivated to punish Psyche by giving her difficult tasks in order for to get discouraged and leave Cupid. Psyche's motivation to carry out the tasks was encouraged by the rewards she expected to acquire at the end. Venus, on the other hand, was motivated by internal awards such as self-satisfaction. Psyche's motivation to accomplish the tasks was also different from the type of motivation that Philemon and Baucis had while serving the

guests. The couple served the guests out of altruism. They were encouraged to serve the guests by the satisfaction and enjoyment they got from doing it. The characters in the two myths, therefore, provide a clear illustration in the difference between intrinsic and extrinsic motivation.

### **Skepticism**

The myths demonstrate a significant difference in terms of skepticism. These differences help in explaining the importance of skepticism in acquiring knowledge. In the myth 'The tale of Beautiful Psyche', Psyche's skepticism helped her see her husband and understand the circumstances that surrounded her new environment, the beautiful palace. Skepticism is, therefore, depicted as a means of gaining new knowledge. On the other hand, in the myth 'Philemon and Baucis', Philemon and Baucis weren't skeptic. They served their guests without inquiring where they came from or their destination. The differences in the characters portrayed in the myths sometimes express the need for skepticism in human life as it allows individuals to be aware of the environment they live in and the kind of people that surround them.

### **CONCLUSION**

Human behavior results from the psychological operations that take place in the brain. The two myths 'The Tale of Beautiful Psyche' and 'Philemon and Baucis' portray human behaviors that can be studied by psychologists. The tales demonstrate universal themes that help readers to establish relationships between various human concepts. These themes also play a significant role in adding knowledge in the field of psychology.

There are several similarities in human behaviors and conditions as portrayed in the two tales. Some of the similar behaviors include self-determination and commitment. There are also some differences that present themselves in the myths. Both tales present the theme of self-determination but in different perspectives.

The exploration of the transparent insights in human conditions and behavior as portrayed in the two themes plays an important role in adding knowledge in the field of psychology. It presents the various behaviors of humans when exposed to different environments and conditions. The knowledge is helpful to learners and psychologists in understanding the relation to the myths and human behaviors.

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