PHIL 110IH INTRO ETHICS: GOOD AND EVIL

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Weekly Brainstorm #9

An interesting topic we are diving into is ethical egoism and self-sacrifice. The open question argument we went over in class states (with Kantianism) that self-sacrifice is not universalizable. So due to Kantianism not everyone can self-sacrifice because everyone will die. I think that this is a good way of looking at it because it shows that self-sacrifice is not successful when universalized. Rand says that if your moral ethics don’t require self-sacrifice than it is ethical egoism. Ethical egoism states that actions are morally right if they promote one’s own self-interest. Ethical egoism is not demonological, it is a form of consequentialism. This is because you will only know if an action benefits your self-interest after you see the results of those actions. Smoking cigarettes is an interesting example in ethical egoism. If you ask a long-term smoker if they received more hedons than dolors, and they say they did than smoking cigarettes was morally right for them. Ethical egoism is a horrible consequentialist ethical approach in my eyes. How can you think that you are only on this planet for yourself? I don’t understand why someone would want to be such a selfish individual. I guess it’s easy to live for yourself and therefore is a cop out. I can’t see many upsides for this ethical egoism. Also, if you do self-sacrifice for the good of someone else but not yourself, then it’s morally wrong according to ethical egoism.