First principle thinking requires us not to take any statements as granted, but to question their premises and reflect on does a statement serve what it was designed to serve, or has the context changed drastically so it has turned obsolete, and what should be made instead to be better. Therefore, the ethics and philosophy behind rules designed for this universe is drastically different from all the moral doctrines that we accepted as default in our time.

Most notably, life is not sacred, violence is not evil, laws are not inherently just, freedoms are not absolute, rights are not inherently given, and some thoughts can be criminalized, some actions are judged more harshly/lighter, and some people are more important than others. How does it work? When the context changes, the output changes, much like a function being fed different sets of inputs, our values are an equation and, one of the viable choices under our context and time (even then it is not absolute, Eurocentric morality is incompatible with many other ethnicities and cultures), but ultimately not the function itself, and certainly not the only solution. “Life is sacred” is only your genetic instinct of self-preservation speaking, not your rational mind. Life is **protected** with reasonable boundaries, for society that’s made up by living people to smoothly run, but itself is never sacred. The fact that we can deprive lives for greater good has already proved that it is not sacred, people are born and passed every day, life is not cosmically sacred in any sense. Similarly, procedural justice and rule of law should not be treated as inherent virtue. Laws can be perfectly of justice but never carried out faithfully, laws can also be distorted from the start and imbue the system with inequality. If a fictional regime charges everyone 50% of their total wealth to sue the other party, it is still considered fair at least superficially, but does it serve justice? No. What about a system where the poor need to risk their life saving while the rich spend what they earn back in mere seconds, a system where everyone knows the truth, every other alternative ruled out, but the legal system tells you they lack (read: hid/burnt) the “key evidence” to prosecute the crime, a system where even if the crime is prosecuted, they are shielded by legal technicalities, different “interpretations” of keywords, or are convicted but only given a slap on the wrist? Same goes for freedom and rights, they are granted to you under a social contract, with terms and conditions, and are revokable if you cross them. In our time it’s carried out by the legal system, but if legal system isn’t inherently justice and sometimes can miss the mark, it doesn’t mean the justice can just slide “this time”. A corrupted official or financial fraud causes suffering at massive scale but are harder to prosecute due to subtlety and resourcefulness, while a vengeful commoner just trying to right the wrongs of system with their own hands can be prosecuted with clarity even when their actions do no external harm, how is that a functional system? Rent-seekers, lobbyists, propagandists weaponize a seemingly good cause but slip their own gimmicks in, tilting the ship and straying the cause from the intended true progress, all with words and ideas, how is that not a crime, crime to the system’s ability to progress and self-correct? And how are the thoughts judged “not criminal” just because they do not exhibit “immediate danger”, while the exact spreading of the thought revokes society’s justice and harmony in greater context, reshaping culture, legal system, and in life power balances, which are measurable dangers? And moreover, are not just mere peaceful “thoughts” but call to actions, has caused some sparsely “exhibited” dangers, and will absolutely someday become actual mass physical danger, all under their falsified justice, not born from rationality and thought-through calculation, but from chants, rants and hideous self-profiting at the expense of others?

Now we have exposed that all the statements we would traditionally believe are true do not exactly serve what they claim to serve. They are designed on beta-tests of some ancient ideologies without further checking premises, maintained for their purposely placed loopholes, and defended by lousy arguments such as “slippery slope”, “unclear definitions” or “ this is as best as we can get or else we risk…”, no, these are born from fear of novelty, idealization of current system, and over-criticism of a system that’s not perfect despite objectively better than ours in every metrics, from the mentality of risk aversion. The flaws doesn’t mean we should stop trying, just means we need to keep optimizing it and fill in the gaps as we explore. Our current systems (earth, 2025) are built layer by layer too, but less organized and fail worse on every job.

And how to avoid making the same mistakes again in the new system? This is the Republic (Tharonvaistra)’s foundational philosophies. Vorelis, Isel, Iselernae, Tharon, Vaistra, and more. First of all, to build a functional system to build actually working social contract, all citizens are required to receive mandatory education on **how to think**, instead of the prepacked ideas themselves. The ideas are taught in a manner not unlike math: you are given premises, and you are asked to derive the optimal structure, audited on your assumptions again and again, on first-principals, on holisticness, on tradeoffs, and eventually, you get an understanding of your own, only then you compare your rationale with existing ideas debriefed on how their foundations, challenges, assumptions and solutions. Even though it’s not possible that 100% of the citizens understand how Tharonvaistra works, an overwhelmingly majority of them must understand, for it is the core to how to exercise rights and thoughts according to the derived virtues from their thinking, such as justice (vaistra). Without the understandings, mass participation of politics is simply not possible as it will only turn into a mob soup.

Tharon, it is the idea that all rights you have within the system derive from you taking prerequisite responsibility to these rights. The law needs to be of vaistra if they are to claim any legitimacy, and then you have to obey the law if you want to be protected by it, unless the law fails vaistra, then you are to act on your best conscience to Ranaistraen, to rebalance justice, your judgements will still be judged by the peer citizens who are just as educated as you on the Republic philosophies, to see if they are contained in reasonable means given your resources, but ultimately, not acting by the law is, not illegal, in this case. When you take up an advantaged position (such as government official), you vow to exercise your duties faithfully, and judged with harsher standards than regular people, after all, the advantages are recoups for your contribution, not your gain from status, and you could have stayed regular but chose to contribute autonomously. This idea helps them build a system where no one is unreachable, and all are bound by consequences. Besides that, tharon also calls all educated and qualified citizens to participate in politics, mandatorily, because it is all of your job to keep the system running. To withhold the opinions is not fault, to **not think and not care** is.

What’s good, what’s evil? What’s of vaistra and what’s not? We should have learnt by now that there’s no inherently settled good or evil, but there absolutely is, in derived sense. Drinking is certainly not a sin, but drunk while driving/piloting? Absolutely is, you knowingly put the public in danger, which isn’t essentially too far away from you are willing to murder someone just for your own convenience and enjoyment. It is true that cynics will say “rules are arbitrary”, but a rule starts to have validity if it leads to clear and foreseeable (or should be foreseeable, ignorance or gambling on “that might not happen” are not excuses) consequences, it becomes rule of the society, and you better obey it if you want to live in the society and/or interact with other parties in the society. Unhappy? Go find your own turf with your own laws. Also, apathy is a crime if you at the time have the ability to stop some evil but chose not to, it’s complicit to that evil. You won’t be suffering apathy from others when you are in trouble, so you aren’t allowed to stand and watch when others need you.

The next level of introduction is the severity of crimes. Guided by previously established rules, we could easily find that vaistra is “blind” action-wise, it does not get strayed with human emotions, only the scale of harm. Not all murders are judged more severely than massive corruptions just because your moral repulsion says so (especially crimes of passion compared to planned corruption), just like how ridiculous that incest in some U.S. States are a more serious crime than murder because of your moral repulsion is triggered more. Emotions are legacies of evolution to avoid harm in most basic forms, not well-equipped to judge complex social situations. In fact, some murders are perfectly legal, depending on specific circumstances and their fits to vaistra. For example, eliminating obvious systemic rots, such as spreaders of subversive thoughts that violated their responsibility in the social contract and sabotage the stability of the system and concept of vaistra (actually the same thing, vaistra is one of the stabilizers and efficiency-pillar of the system, discuss later), is at most crossing your usual line because it’s usually the state’s job, but if the state isn’t willing, then it’s perfectly justified for you to do it. The act is a system gradient, rather than the act itself. Did you make the world better, or worse?

*Most of the statements branching purely from ancient survival instincts rather than refined thinking, often echoing with many religious/dogmatic teachings, are joked by people in this universe as “monkey-ness” or “ape-ness”.*

Of course, tharonvaistra’s values are also survivalist on another level, on human civilization’s level. From individual-self-centric to broader-self-centric. As discussed in good and evil, “rules are arbitrary”, what goal they serve is the difference that gives the arbitrary rules validity. One school of thought believes that the goal of tharonvaistra is facing the truth that, humankind has only so many resources accessible to them at any time, constraints being the technologies dictating how much resources they can use and how efficient in material loss rate, and governance dictating how efficiently the resources are distributed and consumed. If before all resources are used up, the governance is not optimized to be more balanced and efficient in its distribution, for achieving maximum utility of resource usage and supporting accelerated technological breakthroughs, then it’s just chronic death to all humankind. Justice, equality, vaistra, it’s all efficiency coefficients. Anyhow, the founding of tharonvaistra is widely known as “the Awakening”, or “the First Awakening” to those who believes in the Greater Attempt, with the Attempt being the second.

Some possible criticisms that the utilitarian and maximalist pragmatism from misunderstanding tharonvaistra:

1. Calculated morality is dangerous. What if someone who’s deemed more important than you needs your vital organ to live, do you just give it to them? Answer: in the described scenario, is that “more important person” a centerpiece or highly irreplaceable part of a problem that needs to be immediately addressed? If not, then his life is approximately as small as yours. If he’s the only scientist available to develop a cure to a pandemic that’s going to wipe you all out all, then yes, and you should not hesitate too. And that doesn’t happen to “esteemed roles” too, if you are the only delivery man immune to the pandemic, and you need someone’s organ to save you, you get it too, it’s only a problem of necessity and irreplaceability. The system doesn’t need you to die senselessly from some stupid “value” number comparison games, that’s destabilizing on its own.
2. It doesn’t respect the emotional side of humanity. What about the moments where your emotions clash with your rationality in making certain decisions? Answer: What you do in your personal life is no concern of the system, you are allowed to be human, as long as you are not making high impact decisions that has the chance to affect millions of people over decades. When you are not, then your emotional side is denied for very good reasons.
3. People are not incorruptible, what make sure people’s power is not abused in this system? Answer: that’s precisely why the public supervision and audition are in place. If anyone’s entitled specific rights unjustified in terms of realistic necessity, that’s a privilege and gives rise to new priesthood. Tharonvaistra burns priesthoods, including roles with exclusive right to wield discipline inspections. It trusts the public, all members of a society that’s not deprived of their right to be informed and educated, to do the job instead. Unless you can corrupt a huge chunk of individuals and nodes within short amount of time (which is one event happening in my novel), it tends to fix itself and purge the corruptions.

Criticisms beyond the novel universe: in the novel universe timeline they are lucky enough to have launched the first colonizer ship before the resources ran out on earth and people just got stuck nowhere, and colonies survived because of the Awakening. We might not share the same luxury. Several of the resources are running critically low, while the elites use them lavishly and not even for any utilitarian purposes, just because they can. Water used to grow avocados, maintain golf courses, instead of regreening efforts to sustain water renewability, channeling to the support the upkeep and relocation of regions where aquifer have been depleted, and more. Food is theoretically enough to feed the entire world with planned out logistics and fairer distribution, yet still we have people starved to death. Resources are enough to revamp the infrastructures of regions that fell behind, and cover previously uncovered settlements, building up schools, homes, complimentary industries to the established economy, but are instead channeled to build more luxury mansions, secret islands and rental homes controlled by Blackrock and the like to milk even more profit. We could have 8~10 billion people who are well fed and received at least rudimentary education, and from these very population it yields more scientists, we’d have at least double the amount of researchers working on curing cancers and spatial colonization. But Gates and Zuckerbergs, Clintons and Kennedys, all need their yachts and orgies more than we need to get rid of depression, cancer, poverty, starvation, depleting resources and people’s desperation about tomorrow I guess.