*Video: Three Minute Philosophy*

Kant’s way of thinking is very strict, and only allows an action to happen if it is good in every possible situation at all times no matter what. Kant is interested only in the intrinsic value of the decision, not the outcome of the decision. So you could lie, as long as you would be ok with everybody lying in every circumstance. Kant is more universal instead of relative. “Do or do not, there is no try”.

*Kant notes*

Everyone is allowed to do the thinking, we are the ones that become the “guardian” of moral right and wrong. You decide what should be what. But in order to be moral, you must have free will. There is no proof of free will existing though, this is where Bentham criticizes Kant.

To carry out a moral act, one must decide what the categorical imperative is by using reason/logic. That will then determine if it is universal.

First formulation: Act according to the principle with which you made that is universal.

Second formulation: You cannot exempt yourself from the laws with which you made. Treat people as an end and never as a means.

Happiness does not necessarily come from your moral actions. Happiness should not determine your moral actions, if you are happy because of an action then it is purely coincidence.

*Video: Utilitarian Bonanza!*

Only take action if there is a moral value in it. If the moral value is negative or zero, then do not partake in that action. The “scoring” of things is related specifically to pleasure.

*Bentham notes*

Utility is about building/doing something because it has a use, or some kind of value. We are all pleasure seeking individuals and need to be morally governed in order to spread about the most pleasure. Bentham brings philosophy down to earth and concrete.

It seems that you could use hedonic calculus to decide what is good for you, but also what is good for others. How exactly do you decide what variables you will take into account for calculating a moral value? Are there an infinite amount of variables for every moral situation? Bentham has certain principles that you use to put a pleasure value on something, but those components may be able to be broken down into many variables.

*Video: Sheldon Shaping Penny*

Is it right of Sheldon to mess with Penny’s autonomy even if it is for the greater good? Is autonomy and free will worth something? Should we deem it valuable? Sheldon is trying to convince Leonard that it will be good for the both of them, but it really only benefits Sheldon. Sheldon matches Bentham’s idea in that everyone is selfish and only interested in their own pleasure.