

## **Reflection on Choosing Not to Give Money to a Beggar**

I encountered a beggar on the street asking for money, and I decided not to give anything. My choice was based on concerns that giving money might encourage dependency or that it might not be used in a beneficial way. My aim was not to harm but to avoid supporting behavior that might not lead to positive outcomes in the long run.

To evaluate this decision, I applied a framework of universal ethical principles. First, I formulated a maxim: "It is acceptable not to give money to beggars to avoid encouraging dependency." If everyone followed this maxim and chose not to give to beggars, it might lead to a world where individuals in need receive little direct financial help. This could result in greater suffering for those who rely on others' kindness to survive, potentially creating a society that lacks compassion.

Testing this maxim for contradictions, I realized that such a principle could lead to a less empathetic world, where people avoid offering help due to fear of enabling dependency. In such a society, people facing severe poverty might have no immediate safety net, leading to increased hardship. Regarding respect for humanity, my decision leaned more toward protecting my own concerns rather than addressing the beggar's immediate need, treating the person more as a potential problem than as an individual deserving of support.

This reflection has shown me that my choice not to give could, if universally followed, create a world lacking in empathy. Going forward, I aim to be more considerate of others' immediate needs. Rather than assuming that giving money is unhelpful, I might look for alternative ways to assist, such as offering food or donating to shelters. This process has helped me realize that showing empathy and respect for people's dignity can contribute to a more compassionate and supportive world.