

CS/PHIL 201 Discussion Prompt Response

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Response to Prompt for Module # 10 on topic Beoing 737

Recall, rights based theory are deontological in nature. To say that X has a right to Y, is just to say that some individual has a corresponding duty to either a) refrain from doing something, or b) is obligated to provide something so X can secure that right. Use the positive and negative rights distinction to argue what duty an individual who worked for Boeing has a) to themselves, b) to the company and c) to society at large.

a. The Boeing employee would most likely result in the duty to refrain from saying anything because both negative and positive rights result in such a duty. There is a negative right because it is not the employees responsibility to come forward about issues withing Boeing. The positive right is also in favor of staying quite because if the employee does come forward, they will most likely be retributed and fired by Boeing.

b. The employee has a negative right when it comes to the company they work for because it can be seen that they should not interfere with the domain they don't control and thus should refrain from doing anything that could interfere with Boeing.

c. From a societal view, the Boeing employee should be obligated in coming forward because of positive rights. By coming forward the employees would likely save lives, tell the truth, and be honest. The employee would need to come forward to not like, not murder, and tell the full truth.

What makes something a virtuos act is the character traits that are displayed when perfroming that act. Describe some virtues or vices that are displayed by the Boeing employee who doesn't speak up when they have strong reason to do so. Are the virtues and vices the same, given the duties you outlined above? I.e., how does the virtuos agents weigh conlicting duties to the self, the company and society at large? If there is conllicts, how does a virtuos agent decide what the appropriate act is?

Some virtues employee would display by not speaking up are: loyalty, honor, and trust (in the company). Some vices that can be displayed by the employee are cowardice and shame. These vices can clearly be seen bateling for which dutie should be fulfilled by the employee. The duty to self shows cowardice, shame, and trust in the company to do the right thing. The duty to the company is formed through loyalty, honor and trust to the company. Lastly, the duty to society is endorsed by truth, loyalty, and honor to the society.

The largest ethical conflicts are between the cowardice, shame and truthfulness of the employee. A virtuous person may decide the cowardice is not true cowardice because it is courageous to be loyal to your company. They may also state that the employee is not be shameful yet they are being modest by mainting their honor. Lastly, they may argue that the truthfulness to society is by mainting trust in the company that they will be vurtuious and tell the truth, as it is there duty, not the employees. Therefore, the virtuous employee would likely decide that the appropriate act is to maintain their position and refrain from doing anything.