Reconstruction, Marquis, “Why Abortion is Immoral”

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| Exegesis | Marquis, Core Argument | Contraception Objection | Marquis, Response |
| P1. If abortion is (presumptively) morally permissible, then the fetus is not a person with full moral standing.  P2. Abortion is morally permissible.  Therefore, a fetus is not a person with full moral standing. | P1. If X has a future like ours of great value and killing X deprives X of that future, then killing X is (presumptively) morally wrong.  P2. A fetus has a future like ours and killing that fetus would deprive it of a valuable future.  Therefore, abortion is (presumptively) morally impermissible. | P1. If the “future like ours” premise is true, then contraception would be morally impermissible.  P2. But contraception is not morally impermissible!  Therefore, the “future like ours” premise is false. | P1. If there is “no non-arbitrarily identifiable subject of the loss in the case of contraception,” then contraception is morally permissible (according to the “future like ours” premise).  P2. There is “no non-arbitrarily identifiable subject of the loss in the case of contraception”  Therefore, contraception is morally permissible (according to the “future like ours” premise). |

Questions for Critical Evaluation

* Is Marquis being as charitable as possible in the exegesis? Is this a good, accurate depiction?
* Does his core argument engage with a premise in the argument from the exegesis? Does his objection engage with a premise from the core argument? And so on.
* Is the objection strong? Or is it a straw-man? Can you think of a more powerful objection?
* Does his response to the objection engage with a specific premise? Does his response treat the objection charitably? Or does it repeat an idea from the core argument?

*For any premise in any part of the paper, you should be able to develop your own counterargument against that premise. Practice developing the strongest possible criticism against each premise. In philosophical discussion (such as the conference), this is the best way to both critically engage and collaboratively help develop a good argumentative structure.*