

Morality and rational self-interest. --

- - Morality and Self Interest



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Happiness is the highest moral purpose for humans. For instance, just because an action is altruistic does not make it moral. I have no ill-intention towards any living thing, and though my passion for life may seem somewhat intense, I am very sincere and would really like to get to know you.

The Ethics of Ayn Rand

In the same way as the knowledge of the true or the false is not automatic, neither is the knowledge of good or evil.

The Ethics of Ayn Rand

Our primary concern in this essay is her ethics. Is it worth the cost to see a movie in the theater, or would you prefer to wait until you can buy the DVD or watch it on Netflix? Indeed, when any one of them dies, she is heartbroken. It is only to living entities that something may be good or evil.

Morality and rational self

If humans are unproductive, that is evil too.

Sacrifice Regained: Morality and Self

The hero is Hume, but on the relation between morality and self-interest, Hume's innovation is simple -- he drops the afterlife, hence allowing for morality to call for real sacrifices in one's well-being. What would compel people to observe the contract if they knew they could get away with being immoral while simultaneously promoting morality to everyone around them? But just as humans may act toward their own destruction, so they must choose their own values, goals, and actions in order to maintain their lives. I may also cringe at watching a surgeon perform a messy operation, though I know it is for the patient's good.

Morality and Self

But this presupposes that life is the ultimate goal one has chosen. If that is her argument, then it seems plausible enough in the abstract.

The Ethics of Ayn Rand

The three cardinal values are reason, purpose, and self-esteem. She proposes a materialist metaphysic.

Self

The relationship between morality and self-interest is a perennial one in philosophy, at the center of moral theory.

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