

Reading Response 9

Right off the bat a big takeaway from the readings was the idea that intention matters more than action when understanding ethics. Because of how karma is accumulated through thoughts, words, and deeds, the result of those actions matters less than the reason for doing those things. One could have negative intentions but stumble into a positive result, this wouldn't give a person positive karma. In fact it would even give them negative karma going by the idea that intention matters more than action.

In the next reading about suicide and euthanasia with respect to Buddhist ideas, I sort of expected the answers that I read about. Suicide gives you lots of negative karma, which makes sense as it also ends a life that could turn around in the future. Euthanasia on the other hand is a bit more complicated of an issue as it's generally reserved for unredeemable lives who are just in pain. At the same time the Buddhists still see this as a life so there comes a strong ethical dilemma in play.