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**Personal Ethics**

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01/31/16

I am a Chinese immigrant. I was born and get raise in China. My family don’t believe in any “god”. My parents believe we are the only person can control and chance our life. So if you want to have a better life, you need to earn it by working hard. Therefore, I believe no “god” too. I agree with my parents that no one can control or chance your life except yourself. You are your own god. My family is a lower class. My parents work really hard to get enough money for our family. So I learn thrift, not to waste any money on any unnecessary stuffs. I also learn if we want to get something, we must disburse equal or more. There’s no free gift. Even our family is not rich, my parents always take care their parents under any circumstance. Through this, I learn sacrifice ourselves for the people we love. Family is really important. Family is top of myself.

My code of ethics is build up base on my family, my experience and my education. I believe if you want something, you must earn it. Sometime, pay and gain is not equal. However, we will do something no matter what it takes because our desire is very strong. Progress is important, but result is must important. If we have a good progress, but we will end up to have a bad result. I don’t think this means loss, but if we can learn from loss that means we still didn’t waste effort. We could sacrifice for a greater good, but greater good should for a large majority people. The happiness of majority people is important, but my happiness is important too. If my happiness is different than other majority’s happiness, I could make some sacrifice to achieve majority’s happiness only if also will make me feel good.

The new technologies like cell phone, internet, or social media make my ethics has changed. Internet makes me open my eye to the whole world. Because of internet, we can easy to know what happen all around the world immediately. When I see more and hear more about our world and society, I have stronger feeling that I am a part of our society and I should take my responsibility to make our society and our world be better. Cell phone and social media help us to have a better connection with other people. By using these, we are more opening our heart, our life to other people. We are more well to share with other people, for example we would like to share our special moment to someone we care or someone care about us by posting the picture, video, or text on social media.

My ethics basely is for the greater good of large amount of majority people and good result, we should do whatever it takes if it is legal. Therefore, my limitation is I wouldn’t do any illegal things even it produces a lot of happiness to a large amount of majority people. Law is the rules that we must follow. If we can legally achieve our goal and product a great happiness, harming a minor group of people is acceptable. However, we should try our best to find a way to reduce the loss because harming people is not a good choice.

Utilitarian ethics is about judging the action is right or wrong by looking it increase or decrease the total happiness of the affected parties. I agree that increase of total happiness of the affected parties is a goal that we should achieve. In many situation, decreasing a minority people’s happiness to achieve majority people’s happiness is necessary. It sometime also can help to improve our society. However, when we apply utilitarian, we need to talk about what percentage of people is majority. If it is a close call, we should be rethinking again to find out how to increase the percentage of majority people, then make a decision and take action. When we apply utilitarian, I think we also need to calculation is the happiness for a long term or it just for a short term. If this happiness only can stay a short time period, should we harm the minority people.

Social contract ethics is about it is right for a person to act according to a moral rule if rational people would collectively accept it as binding because of its benefits to the community. I really think law is important to people. It tells us what is right or wrong. It draws a board to tell people where we can’t cross. It maintains social order. However, when we apply social contract, we should think how did the rational people make a correct decision on accept it as binding. Moreover, when we have new social structure, we should make correction of the laws base on the new stuff. And when we have new technology comes up, we should make some new laws that relate to it.

The good in Aristotle’s ethical theory is that which assists the person in accomplishing the end, goal, or objective; what is bad interferes with achieving the end, goal, or objective. Usually, we decide what is good or bad, we look at the result of did we accomplish our goal just like Aristotle said. For me accomplishing the goal is really important because it is how other people measure you. Many people can or don’t care about your process, they would like to pay attention on how well you achieve the goal. However, when we apply Aristotle’s ethical theory, we also need to think about does the goal that we set is good or bad. If the goal of finishing this task will harm the happiness of majority people, should we consider accomplishing this goal is good.

One ethics issue in “Surreptitious Surveillance on the Internet” is should Moxie Marlinspike, a cyber-security expert help Saudi Arabian telecommunication company to set up a surveillance program that was intended to monitor communications on Twitter, WhatsApp, Viber, and Line.

I agree with what Marlinspike did which was not help them for the surveillance program. I think monitor communications on the apps that allow users to make posts, calls and send texts is invasion of privacy even the company claim that they were trying to respond to an ongoing terrorist threat. When they set up the monitor, they are get privacy information on not only terrorist but other innocent people too. And I think everyone should have right to get protect on their privacy. Base on my personal ethics, I think it can’t create a greater good because even they monitor the communications, it still a chance that they can recognize the terrorist. However, what I sure is that what they will do would definitely harm a majority people’s privacy. And the result of monitor the communications to find out the terrorist is unpredictable, may be is a very low percentage to make it. Therefore, sum of all these consequences and calculate the happiness, I think it worth for us to monitor the communications on popular social media apps to trying find out terrorist.

Bibliography:

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Introduction to Ethical Theories: A Procedural Approach, Douglas Birsh

-Chapter 2 Ethical Relativism

-Chapter 5 Utilitarianism

-Chapter 8 Aristotle’s Ethical Theory