

HUMAN DECISION-MAKING UNDER UNCERTAINTY IS HABITUTATION AND VIRTUE-BASED

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One of the great fictions of all times is that human beings are naturally rational beings, that rationality is human nature. This was the myth that Socrates cultivated in Hellenistic Athens. And it has had a wide following in the Western Intellectual Tradition. It is totally false, not just a little wrong.

Human psyche does not naturally respect reason. Our actual decision-making is intuitive, and not rational. Intuitive decision making is affected by habituation, and Virtue theory applies here. Thus we habitutate to the rational operations that we practice.

I was just reading William S. Cooper's *The Evolution of Reason*. Looking at the Chapter 3, "The Evolutionary Theory of Decision Logic" examines decision theory and decision-making under *uncertainty* involving subjective probabilities.

I do not believe that these theories are correct in the sense that I believe that to the extent that we are able to have any serious subjective probabilities assigned to potential branching in decisions, they require cultivation of the concepts and habituation before they can become part of our apparatus. I do not believe that there are branching logic circuits that are our evolutionary inheritance.

On the other hand, we do begin to habituate to certain sequences of concepts and actions by practice, and long habituation allows us to expand our repertoire of possible thoughts and actions. So our rationality requires habituation of thoughts and ideas and theories and myths.

In fact, without some habituation, we are unlikely to have any constant principle in behaviour. Our evolutionary adaptations require exercise in particular sorts of thought and action repeatedly before we are able to produce any approximation of the fantastic idea of *pure reason*.