



Zoe Ellen Brain

September 13, 2012 · 🌐

Looks like I have more faith than the Dalai Lama. Sure, you can prove via Kantian Philosophy and Games Theory that altruism is a winning strategy. But even if it weren't, I'd still try to do what I see is the right thing. He hasn't got to that stage yet, of not just behaving that way, but knowing that that is your belief, however irrational, and accepting it.

I just don't see belief in gods as being necessary, or even desirable, let alone "adequate".

Quote of the month: two contenders:

" if scientific analysis were conclusively to demonstrate certain claims in Buddhism to be false, then we must accept the findings of science and abandon those claims."

"We define terms like "medicine," "causation," "law" and "theory" very much to the detriment of homeopathy, astrology, voodoo, Christian Science and other branches of human ignorance..."



Dalai Lama tells his Facebook friends that religion "is no longer adequate"

This past Monday, people who have the Dalai Lama as a Facebook friend found this little gem in their newsfeed: All the world's major religions, with their...

IO9.COM | BY GEORGE DVORSKY

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Kelly Kuykendall and 4 others like this.

1 share



Onni Neko This man has a particular genius not easily seen, nor often discussed.

September 13, 2012 at 2:11am · Like · 1



Lauren Gartenlaub Religion is not necessary for one to have faith.

September 13, 2012 at 2:14am · Like · 2



Irene Rose ...I tend to think of him as leading others in there way of dealing with the concept.

September 13, 2012 at 2:32am · Like · 1



Bonze AnneRose Blayk -

"Sure, you can prove via Kantian Philosophy and Games Theory that altruism is a winning strategy."

One can FAKE such a proof by importing a priori assumptions into one's analysis and rigging the game so "winning" requires one to use strategy X, Y, or Z...

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Sam Harris, likewise, can't -prove- jack to anyone who does not accept his assumptions, and ditto for Ayn Rand, Albert Ellis, and anyone else seeking to beat their doctrine into people's heads so they will become more "ethical". You cannot deduce the "ought" from an "is"; you can sell that concept, and people love to buy it, because it shields them from the fear of facing the truth that the choices they make about morality and ethical standards are their -own- choices, rather than "inalterable truths of nature" or "God's Holy Commandments".

I came to those conclusions a long time ago when I was an undergrad:

- Human beings are tool users. We have an innate tendency to look at things, and say, "What is this good for?"

And so, with other human beings, we do the same. "What are human beings good for?"

And look for an ultimate purpose, a teleological end-point that justifies us as -useful things-

... that's a fundamental error, because the truth is, we just are, and have no inherent purpose that is given to us; we assume purposes, or seek to impose them on others.

... back then I was still interested in becoming a moral philosopher, but decided that it was a bad idea to follow ("in a manner of speaking") in Nietzsche's footsteps by voicing those ideas, inducing confusion in a lot of people, and more likely than not providing fodder for immoralists (I'm not) and psychopaths (ditto) who exploit ideas contrary to those expressing a belief in "genuine human nature and morality" to "justify" their misbehavior... bad results, I think we would agree.

But now that I'm simply a comedienne, faux philosophe, and promulgator of a derisible cult, † I've abandoned my scruples. As I once explained to my therapist, having discussed this before, and how those minimal principles fit into my own actions, and those of my counterpart Sue:

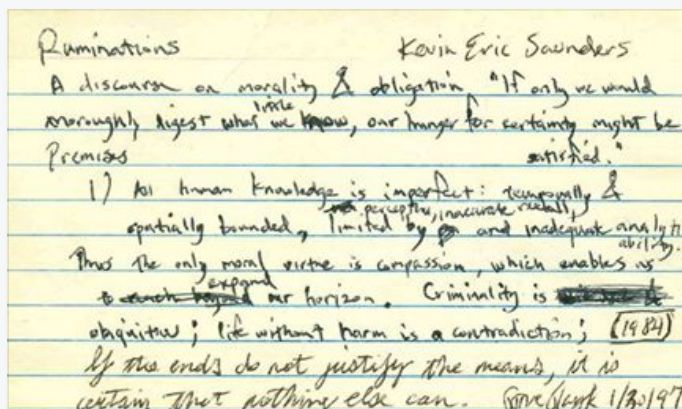
"You didn't see any prescriptions there, right? There aren't any."

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=452033017953&set=a.429140027953.232215.707147953&type=3&theater>

There aren't. Actually trying to practice compassion towards others as one's sole moral standard leaves one "at odds" most, if not all of the time. It cannot be systematized, because that in itself subordinates love of self and others to... the love of rules.

Sincerely,
- bonzie anne

† Membership is on an exclusive basis: no-one is qualified for membership, inasmuch as no person can speak -for- Tao (a/k/a "The Goddess"), but only -of- Tao... "me too".



Bonze AnneRose Blayk

bonze blayk's Postcard Ethic.

"Keep It Simple... Sweetheart."

Ruminations - Kevin Eric Saunders

A discourse on morality and obligation "If only we would thoroughly digest what little we know, our hunger for certainty might be satisfied."

Premises

1) All human knowledge is imperfect; temporally & spatially bounded, limited by perception, inaccurate recall, and inadequate analytical ability.

Thus the only moral virtue is compassion, which enables us to expand our horizon. Criminality is ubiquitous; life without harm is a contradiction; [1984]

If the ends do not justify the means, it is certain that NOTHING else can.

bonze blayk 1/30/97

September 13, 2012 at 12:48pm · Like · 1 · Remove Preview



Bonze AnneRose Blayk -

Oh dear. There are a couple of missing terms in Harris' logic?

Here, I'll fill them in:

"Once we acknowledge that Sam Harris' concept of "morality" relates to questions of human and animal well-being, then there is no reason to doubt that Sam Harris' prescriptive (rather than merely descriptive) science of morality is possible. After all, there are principles of biology, psychology, sociology and economics that will allow Sam Harris' system of ethics to flourish in this world, and it is clearly possible for Sam Harris' system of ethics not to flourish due to ignorance of these principles."

Of course, most people on this planet would use "God" or "Allah" or "Krishna" or some other placemaker in this argument rather than "Sam Harris"; however mistaken they may be, they're inclined to theistic reasoning, and "selling" Sam's ideas is likely to require a resort to WWII.

... Harris, by the way, reasons from his distinctly Buddhist orientation, and it wouldn't be particularly surprising to me if he wound up discovering totally scientific justifications for endorsing the Dalai Lama's views on masturbation? "It's bad for you: don't do it."

Oh, my, God. I just came across this...

"I love the smell of science in the morning... it's the smell... the smell of victory!" - bonze blayk

... The Dalai Lama advocating for a Marx-Buddha synthesis?

Ouch. This is indeed (facepalm) territory. Well, whatever is required to attain "human happiness", science shall provide ample justification.

<http://hhdl.dharmakara.net/hhdlquotes1.html#marxism>



Dalai Lama Answers Questions on Various Topics

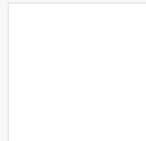
A: Of all the modern economic theories, the economic...

HHDL.DHARMAKARA.NET

September 13, 2012 at 1:51pm · Like · Remove Preview



Far Dareis Mai Very thought provoking thread, watched the Penn & Teller video and read http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serfdom_in_Tibet_controversy



Serfdom in Tibet controversy - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The serfdom in Tibet controversy rests on both a...

EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG

September 13, 2012 at 5:03pm · Like



Far Dareis Mai However, I can't bring myself to condemn a man who advocates for Love and Peace as powerfully as the Dalai Lama... he has been an inspiration for many of us. Is there some possible hypocrisy? Was Tibet a brutal serfdom requiring Chinese invasion to bring reforms? Were the reforms underway by the 13th Dalai Lama an effective and sincere attempt to reform

their society? Read the above citation in Wikipedia... it raises more questions than it answers, revealing that this isn't a black and white issue.

September 13, 2012 at 5:08pm · Like



James Dugan "It cannot be systematized, because that in itself subordinates love of self and others to... the love of rules."

...that statement neatly summarizes the problem with far too many people that profess to believe the same things I do...

September 13, 2012 at 5:10pm · Unlike · 2



James Dugan Is God necessary? Is Religion?

...the first one requires one to ask the question "how did all *this* come to be". If you believe it's all a cosmic accident, then the answer is no....all you need is to be a moral person to be a part of civilization as we know it.

Yes, Moral Values can differ, but all humans recognize kindness and other virtues...does science get us there? Not really - but it CAN explain them....YMMV. Lacking any other frame of reference, I suppose one can use science to get there.

If you don't believe in an accident/series of accidents on that scale (odds?), then the next question would be 'what God?'. Do you really understand what He wants? I'd wager that many don't really understand an intelligence of that magnitude, since oftentimes we don't understand EACH OTHER...<shrug>

How does one DEFINE religion, faith, or philosophy - are they eventually the same?

If you accept that Religion is 'An organized set of rules (or Dogma) that one uses to understand a diety's wishes about how one serves a the diety's goals' - and one believes that - as Bonze indicates - "It cannot be systematized, because that in itself subordinates love of self and others to... the love of rules." - then NO, religion is merely a crutch at best.

Given the way some churche's I've been in behave, the crutch does not always lead to something good...

I'd say that to be moral, you need only faith in human nature.

If you believe in the God I do, the WAY I do, then it's the same thing.

September 13, 2012 at 5:30pm · Unlike · 3



Pantau 蟠桃 I have lived near the Dalai for 7 years and studied with his monks and nuns. I like his attitude not to have blind faith but test everything scientifically. His attitude is the opposite of all religious leaders I know, who are less flexible and cause many problems in the world.

September 14, 2012 at 4:48am · Like



James Dugan "if scientific analysis were conclusively to demonstrate certain claims in Buddhism to be false, then we must accept the findings of science and abandon those claims."

Change "Buddhism" to "Christianity" and I have much the same point of view. He'd be interesting to talk to, but I don't accord any divinity to him - I don't accord any OTHER man divinity either (ie the pope or any other 'religious figure' currently alive)...

September 14, 2012 at 4:35pm · Like



Pantau 蟠桃 He doesn't even claim to be a real reincarnation of the 13th Dalai. He doesn't claim anything.

September 14, 2012 at 4:51pm · Like



James Dugan I know little about the guy. I thought a lot of Buddhists thought of him as divine in some way.

I do know something about the Pope, and I don't buy into the Papal (apostolic) Succession explanation - but my stepbrother (who converted TO Catholicism) buys into it hook line and sinker. <shrug>

Not trying to start an argument here, merely outlining my position.

September 14, 2012 at 5:07pm · Like



Pantau 蟠桃 I had a look at that Penn and Teller video. It's very disturbing as information is taken out of context. He and the Tibetans get ridiculed. I have lived with the Tibetans for 7 years and studied the Dalai very critically. He loves it when I disagree with him, so we have a civilized debate. That is

Buddhism. I wish more people were like the Dalai. We may giggle about OUR term His Holiness (which doesn't translate to Tibetan) because we call him Kundun. The Dalai Lama taught me how to stay alive, find happiness and help others. All my dreams came true after meeting him en studying with him and his monks. I only love Barbra Streisand more, because I now her longer than the Dalai.

September 14, 2012 at 5:18pm · Like



Write a comment...

