

# Contemporary Moral Problem An ITEthic Reader

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## DEDICATIONS

To God:

All for God.

To my Parents:

Thanks for the unconditional Love and Support.

To my Brother and Sister:

Thanks for the help.

To my Friends:

Thanks for the unending stories that inspires and creates a new room for everything.

## PREFACE

This is a compilation of Case studies, Book reviews and things learned from the book,  
Contemporary Moral Problems from different authors.

Chapter Title: James Rachels, "Egoism and Moral skepticism"

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Quote:

"It is all right for me to drink your beer and then complain if you drink mine"

Selfishness makes you think that you are more superior to others that's why I think that this guy is complaining when somebody drinks his beer.

Learning Expectation:

I want to understand the whole chapter and to analyze the real point of the topics.

Review:

This first chapter states about egoism and moral sceptism, but I didn't get the egoism part. From what I read, this chapter is about selfishness and altruism, selflessness. And from what I see, doing things that will make others you love be beneficial to your actions instead of your own advantage is really the most unselfish act to anyone's lives. Just like what Smith did. I think what he has done is a form of unselfishness and for me there will be no argument left for that.

I don't get the line: "...that merely because someone derives satisfaction from helping others makes him unselfish." Helping others for the sake of them is an unselfish act itself. However, if it is done involuntarily or with payment then it is not an unselfish act anymore because his work has a respective exchange.

Lessons Learned:

From what I read, I realized that not all actions that help people are not to be called unselfish acts. You have to know their intentions and motives for doing it.

Integrative Questions:

What is egoism?

What is altruism?

What is dichotomy?

How can you tell whether the actions of the people are selfish or not for their actions?

If you gain special powers, how will you use it? Is it to save people or to use for personal issues?

Chapter Title: John Arthur: "Religion Morality and Conscience"

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Quote:

"...It is not at all clear that God really can do anything at all. Can God, for example, destroy himself? Or make a rock so heavy that he cannot lift it? Or create a universe which was never created by him?..."

Learning Expectation:

From the title itself, I expect to learn the importance of religion in a morality issues and how it is connected.

Review:

I just have one question about the article...

If Morality is social, it will only be included in moral values if they see you doing something immoral. But what if you are doing something immoral and other won't notice that you are doing it, and then you won't notice that is actually an immoral act.

In this article at first there are two moralities. One is the religion and the other, the social morality. The first part of this article says that all morality rooted from the religion view which, lectured about the good and bad of every actions. It is a bad act if and only if it will violate God's commandments. And from that, morality spreads from it. And extending the values and here come the moral and social values.

Basically morality is shaped from our religion and our God's commandments. Today, we believe about the preaching of our Cathedral Fathers and we try to follow the way to the Goodness. I also believe that without our Religions there will be no other moralities invented. The religions are the inventors of morality and not just God but also its people are creating new moralities which can be changed in due time. Morality can be said as an Old way of living or a modern morality but, one way or another there always be morality because it was already started and because the community have accepted the moralities of the religion and other people.

Lessons Learned:

I believe and will continue to believe that God's is the source of everything, even morality. And that morality and values are part from the religion.

Integrative Questions:

How morality did came up from religion?

What is the difference between God's Commandment and the Legislative Laws?

TITLE OF THE BOOK: CONTEMPORARY MORAL PROBLEMS

AMAZON LINK: [HTTP://WWW>AMAZON.COM/CONTEMPORARY-MORAL-PROBLEMS- JAMES-WHITE/DP/0534584306](http://www.amazon.com/contemporary-moral-problems-james-white/dp/0534584306)

Chapter Title: Friedrich Nietzsche, “Master-and-Slave Morality”

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Quote:

”... the good man must in any case be the safe man: he is good-natured, easily deceived, perhaps a little stupid, un bonhomme.”

Learning Expectation:

I want to know why there is a need for a master-slave relationship if everybody can do the job. Is equality not good enough?

Review:

In this topic, Friedrich states that the “noble men” are the good guys, so it means that they are the “somewhat” stupid people? I’m confused with the noble men and the superiority in physic. Aren’t the noble guys the “masters” and the barbarians should be the “slaves” because they are weak in mental aspects? Well they became barbarian because of the noble who are mastering them are maybe too much in to the slavery that’s why the slaves form a group and rebelled against the noble guys.

That’s why for me, I won’t side with the master-slave relationship even if I’m the master, of course especially if I am the slave. I won’t tolerate the master and fight them. And in this matter, Friedrich clearly states his morality of the Utilitarianism, in which the master should dominate and give order to their slave, and slaves should too, follow their masters or they will be punished. He also states that the master-morality should practice their power and should exercise their right to rule or right to will over other people.

Lessons Learned:

Master-slave morality is not an issue to be looked up to. There should always be equality on both sides. Always.

Integrative Questions:

Is there really a need for a slave nowadays?



Chapter Title: Mary Midgley, "Trying out one's new sword"

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Quote:

"...A samurai sword has to be tried out because, if it was to work properly, it had to slice through someone at a single blow, from shoulder to the opposite flank. Otherwise, the warrior bungled his stroke. This could injure his honour..."

Learning Expectation:

I wish to understand how one can talk about others culture without really experiencing it.

Review:

Almost all the people now tends to judge other people, and to criticize other whom they don't even know. That's why discriminations are common now. I'm fascinated with the anthropologist that stayed for two weeks in the remote area. He learned from his experience how to cope and to be with the ancestral cultures. He somehow defended that we should not criticize other cultures without us knowing about theirs. If you are in that situation, you too should watch out for your actions that you might provoke them to hurt you. And you should be extra careful and you should respect what they do and how they act.

For me, learning other cultures through experience is the best experience you can have. You can mingle and chat with other people and you get to know other information that you usually taken for granted for. At one time, I went to a place where I can't understand their language. I kept quiet and try to understand what they are talking about, and from my listening to them, I understand some of their talks and I got excited to what they are talking about. They were talking about how to cure some wounds without the modern medications. From that experience I learned how to cure some mild. Thanks to them I learned a new technique to cure wounds.

Lessons Learned:

If you are in different areas, you should be careful in what you do and what you say, because some people just snap out of the blue without you noticing it. You must not talk ill to people you don't know or you don't understand instead, try to get well with others if you are in different places. You'll never know what to expect when you are there.

Integrative Questions:

Is moral isolationism that bad?

Why do you have to criticize others if you can just ignore?

## Chapter Title: Immanuel Kant's: "Categorical Imperative"

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### Quote:

"Act only on that maxim through which you can at the same time will that it should become a universal law."

### Learning Expectation:

I heard a lot about Mr. Immanuel Kant as a great philosophy and his philosophical ideas in morality. And in this article, I expect to learn and to understand more about his philosophical ideas.

### Review:

Immanuel Kant uses his strong presence when it comes to philosophical ideas to persuade and to lecture the people reading and listening to his views. He focuses on the causes and effects of the actions of the actors. That the people should think ahead for the actions that they will do and that it will have some consequences to other people and the environment. In practicality issues, this value should be understood and that should be implemented so that all the people will think first before they act and that this will reduce errors and problems that the people will face if they do not think first.

He states that the universal law, "act only on the maxim through which you can at the same time will that it should become a universal law", that if you want others to do good to you, you should first do good to them. And this simple thought is an example of thinking first and doing the actions later. In some cases, we are affected by the feedbacks of the people around us before we do the actions, and thus we innovate and change our actions for their benefits. This clearly shows that every action should be planned and be analyzed first before actually doing it.

In some cases, when we do actions in a rush or in an emergency situation, we neglect thinking before doing something. In this example, how can you correct if what you do causes harm to others and if that scenario is asked we are to say that we really need it just to save or to nourish the given emergency. Sometimes we hurt other people trying to save others. In that case, we should think for a better answer on how to save and to not hurt some people. And if not, we should put the affected hurt people on a minimal level just to save some. I heard from one movie that the hero strongly states, "one life will be sacrificed for the sake of a thousand lives", I thought about it over and over again. And if it comes to that, I think that the decision should be done if there are no more other solution. The fateful one life should be honorably sacrificed for the life of many people.

Lessons Learned:

Thinking and planning requires time to have an answer to a problem but, it is far better than doing the actions that may conclude to more and bigger problems. And from what I read from other moral books, a calm thinker is can win over angry warrior. So that concludes that we should think first before actually playing the act.

Integrative Questions:

What is categorical Imperative?

### Chapter Title: “John Stuart Mill’s Utilitarianism”

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#### Quote:

“No reason can be given why the general happiness is desirable, except that each person, so far as he believes it to be attainable, desires his own happiness.”

#### Learning Expectation:

I expect to understand the real meaning of utilitarianism and its values of having the moral good for the majority.

#### Review:

Friedrich Nietzsche’s view of morality, utilitarianism, relies on the common good for the MAJORITY whereby, the unfortunate minorities will suffer the consequences for others. It is for example, Hitler’s Era, almost three million Jews were exterminated because Hitler wanted to have a larger territory for the Germans. For them (Hitler and the Germans), what they are doing is good. And that they are doing it for the Germans so, they did not care for the Jews.

In our class lecture, our professor from De La Salle College of Saint Benilde, Sir Paul Pajo, showed that even a small part of the population be called the minorities were to be sacrificed or to be slaves of the majority is not at all ethical. In the division of the people, the majority and the minority, discrimination and mass sufferings will be visible and it will not be a good example for the nation and its people. And it will just lead to misunderstanding, poverty, may even cause wars for the colliding nations and chaos to the entire world. And also, our professor showed to us a clip of the rising power of the Muslims Community in their rapid growth in population and that they will cover three forts of the world in less than 20 years. It means that, all those that are pressuring the Muslims will get their payback once the Muslims gain the power of the majority.

As I believe, a UTILITARIAN is just like a HEDONIST, it’s just that utilitarian share the common pleasure with the majority and that the majority will dominate the minorities without even thinking if they would trample upon them or even kill them. Hedonism alone is not that acceptable as a morality for it only shows the selfishness and greed of the individual. Morality should be for everyone and that it can also ensure that everyone will benefit from it.

#### Lessons Learned:

I learned and realized that we should always treat each other equally so that, we would not have problems in the future. And we can live well in peace. A utilitarian and a hedonism morality are not favorable for the common good of the entire community.

Integrative Questions:

What is Utilitarianism?

What is the difference of a Utilitarianism and Hedonism Morality?