

Book Review: Contemporary Moral Problems

Chapter 1: James Rachels, Egoism and Moral scepticism

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?