

LESSON THIRTEEN: A DEIST-FRIENDLY MORAL SYSTEM (PART FOUR)

Rule 12: Do not unnecessarily antagonize.

Unnecessarily antagonizing is upsetting someone without sufficient cause. In the southern part of the United States, there used to be laws designed by some white people to oppress black people. Then some civil rights advocates, mostly Southern black people, began to break those laws so that those laws would be changed for the better. Their actions antagonized many whites, but their actions were necessary to change very evil laws. Thus, they had sufficient cause and their actions were good.

However, in the United States today, it is against the law for an adult to walk around a city completely naked. The reason for this law is that many Americans have been raised to believe that it is evil for adults to be naked in public places. This is not necessarily true, but this is what they believe. Walking around naked in public would antagonize many Americans, but this action is not necessary to change a very evil law. The law against nakedness oppresses little if at all. Thus, there is not sufficient cause for an adult to walk around naked in public places of the United States, and doing so is at least a little bit evil.

Rule 13: Do not unnecessarily hurt someone, physically or emotionally.

Unnecessarily hurting someone is causing someone pain without sufficient cause. It is generally necessary for a victim to punch a bully or for an honest dentist to pull a tooth. These actions hurt people, but they do more good than evil. However, it is unnecessary for a bully to punch a victim or for a dishonest dentist to pull a perfectly fine tooth just to make more money. These actions do more evil than good.

Rule 14: Do not conceive unwanted children.

Conceiving unwanted children is making children who will probably not receive the physical and/or emotional care they need to be as good and happy as possible throughout their lives. One conceives wanted children when one is able and willing to properly care for them, and one conceives unwanted children when one is unable and/or unwilling to properly care for them.

Rule 15: Do not commit adultery.

Adultery is either sex between a married and unmarried person, or sex between two married people who are not married to each other.

Rule 16: Do not marry or have sex with someone else if you are a child.

The definition of marriage in this book is as follows: Marriage is when two people formally agree to have a long-term relationship during which they will only have sex with each other. Although often pleasurable, both marriage and sex with other people often have very serious consequences. Children are not mentally and emotionally prepared for these consequences.

Rule 17: Do not force someone to marry you.

Because all humans are of equal worth and should have the same opportunities in a society, and because most humans do not want a forced marriage, adults should be free to marry, separate, and divorce as they wish.

Rule 18: Do not show favoritism.

Showing favoritism means favoring one human over another for an evil reason. Hiring or not hiring someone because of his or her age, gender, race, ethnicity, social status, religion, political affiliation, or sexual orientation is probably favoritism. However, hiring someone because of intelligence, strength, experience, mental toughness, enthusiasm, and having proper certifications is probably not favoritism.

Rule 19: Do not slander.

Slander is a false statement designed to damage someone's reputation. If someone is a relatively good person but you say that she or he is a relatively evil person just because you do not like him or her, that is slander. Yet if someone is a relatively evil person and you say that she or he is a relatively evil person, that is not slander.