

LESSON TWELVE: A DEIST-FRIENDLY MORAL SYSTEM (PART THREE)

Rule 1: Always try to do what is best for everyone.

What is best for everyone is usually what helps the most creatures and hurts the fewest creatures. It is usually best to feed hungry people than to let them starve to death.

Rule 2: Help creatures. Don't harm them.

Helping creatures means causing them to be more good and/or happy. Harming creatures means causing them be more evil and/or miserable. Teaching someone to be kind to others and to appreciate life helps them. Teaching someone to be cruel to others and hate life harms them.

Rule 3: Do not murder.

Murder is intentionally killing a human who does not deserve to be killed. A human should only be intentionally killed to defend someone who deserves to be defended. Purposefully killing an innocent person walking down the street is murder, but purposefully killing someone who is trying to murder you is not murder.

Rule 4: Do not rape.

Rape is physically forcing someone to have sex. It violates someone's freedom and body. No one should be forced to have sex.

Rule 5: Do not torture.

Torture means to purposefully inflict severe mental or physical pain. It is usually done to punish or coerce the victim, or to amuse a masochist. Breaking a child's bones because you are angry at him or her is torture, but occasionally spanking a child's butt for a good reason is not, as long as the child's butt is not bruised, bleeding, scarred, or broken as a result.

Rule 6: Do not maim.

Maiming is causing someone to lose the use of her or his body part. Cutting off someone's arm because he or she failed to pay a debt is maiming, but cutting off someone's arm, as surgeons sometimes do, to save her or his life is not.

Rule 7: Do not disfigure.

Disfiguring is permanently making someone look uglier, at least to him or herself. Cutting lines in someone's face is disfiguring, but leaving scars on someone's body, as surgeons sometimes do to help people, is not.

Rule 8: Do not enslave a human.

Enslaving is treating a creature as if she or he is one's property. Forcing someone to work for free all day long is probably slavery, but making a child do thirty minutes worth of chores for free is probably not.

Rule 9: Do not vandalize.

Vandalizing is destroying someone else's property without sufficient cause. Breaking windows on someone's house or car for fun is probably vandalizing, but tearing down an old house to build something else is probably not.

Rule 10: Do not steal.

Stealing is taking another's property without proper permission. Taking money from a stranger's bank account without him or her knowing about it is probably stealing, but taking money from someone who freely gives it to you is not.

Rule 11: Do not lie.

Lying is saying something you know is untrue. A lie can be spoken or written. You are lying if you say that you did not steal some money although you know that you did. You are not lying if you say that you did not steal some money, but, in reality, you accidentally took some money which belonged to someone else without her or his permission.