

Immanuel Kant

- ❖ What is freedom? How can we act freely?
- ❖ What is the supreme principle of morality?

Immanuel Kant: Contrasts

Morality

Motives

Duties vs inclinations

Freedom

Determination of will

Autonomous vs heteronomous

Reason

Imperatives

Categorical vs Hypothetical

Immanuel Kant: Contrasts

Morality

Motives

Duties

Freedom

Determination of will

Autonomous

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Imperatives

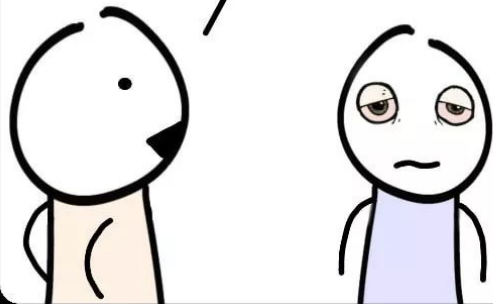
Categorical

Categorical Imperatives

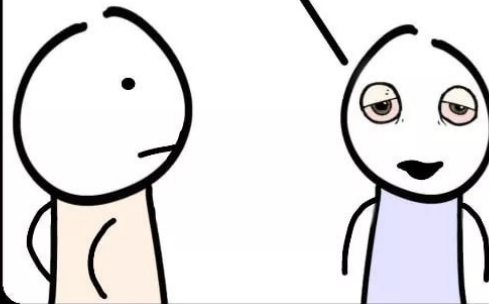
The formula of universal law:

“Act only on that maxim whereby you can at the same time will that it should become a universal law”

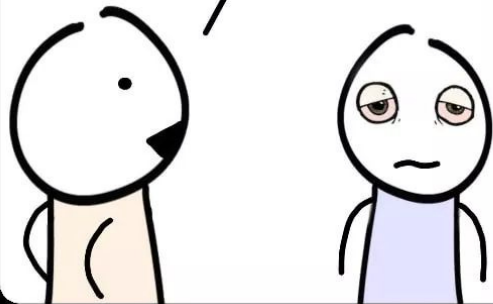
You look terrible!



I have Kantian
Insomnia.



What the hell is
Kantian Insomnia?



Well, if everybody was asleep
all the time, that would be bad,
so going to sleep at all is bad.



Categorical Imperatives

The formula of universal law:

“Act only on that maxim whereby you can at the same time will that it should become a universal law”

This is the test for your action, not the reason for acting.

Categorical Imperatives

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“I say that man, and in general every rational being, exists as an end in himself, not merely as a means for arbitrary use by this or that will.”

Categorical Imperatives

The formula of humanity as an end:

“Act in such a way that you always treat humanity, whether in your own person or in the person of any other, never simply as a means, but always at the same time, as an end”

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It is OK to use someone (even ourselves) as a means, AS LONG AS we treat in a way that is consistent with respect to their dignity

Perfect and Imperfect Duties

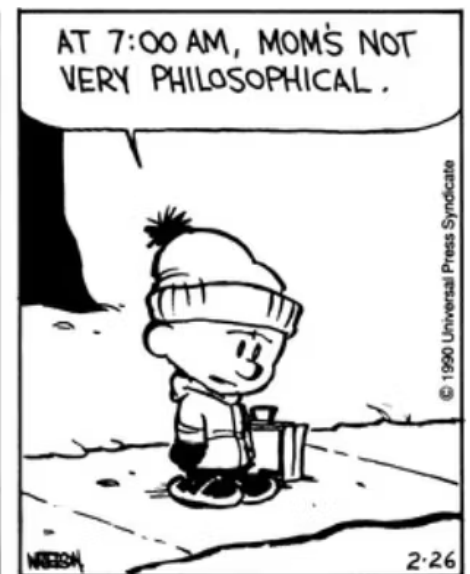
A perfect duty is one which one must always do and an imperfect duty is a duty which one must not ignore

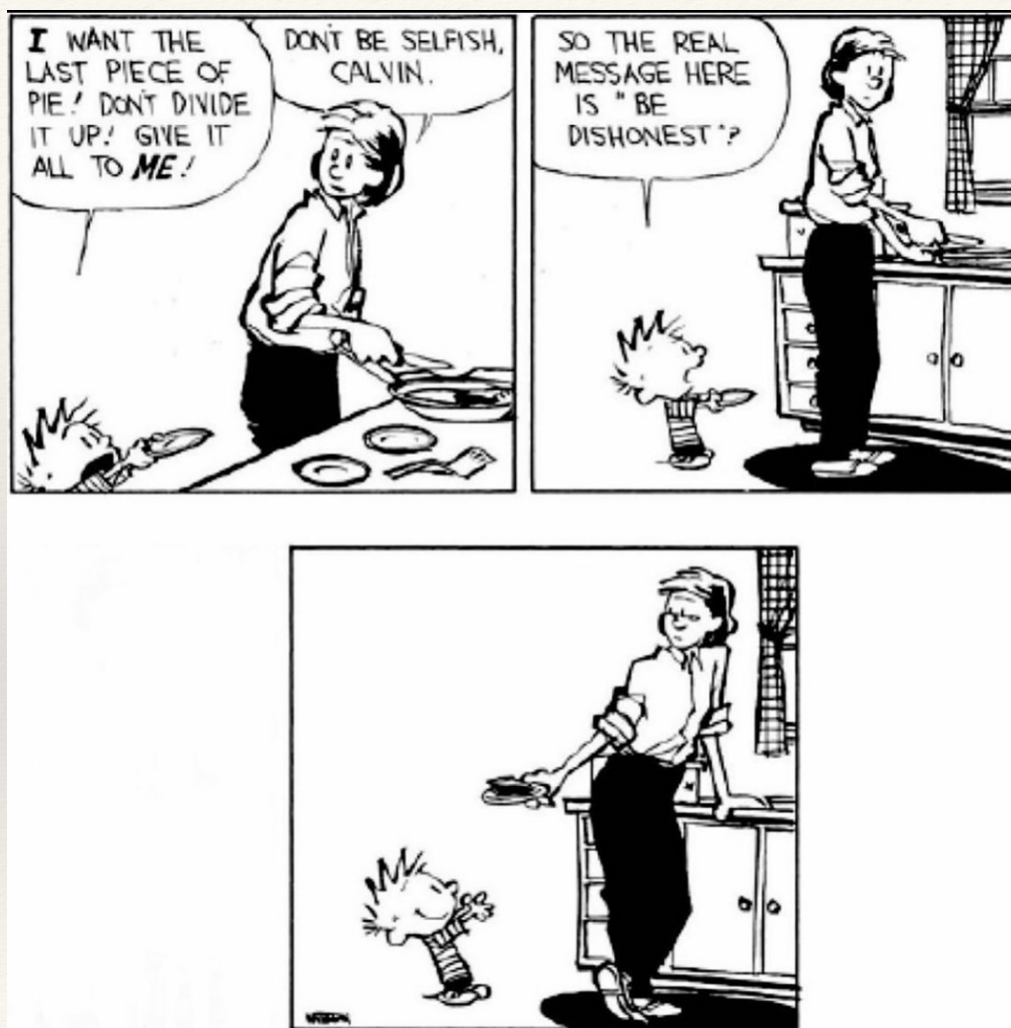
Four classes of duty:

- ❖ **Perfect duties** to oneself, such as the prohibition of suicide;
- ❖ **Perfect duties** to others, such as the prohibition of deceitful promises;
- ❖ **Imperfect duties** to oneself, such as the prescription to cultivate one's talents;
- ❖ **Imperfect duties** to others, such as the prescription of benevolence



WHY DO I HAVE TO LEARN? WHY CAN'T I STAY THE WAY I AM? WHAT'S THE POINT OF THIS? WHY DO THINGS HAVE TO BE THIS WAY? WHY CAN'T THINGS BE DIFFERENT?





“Above all, don't lie to yourself. The man who lies to himself and listens to his own lie comes to a point that he cannot distinguish the truth within him, or around him, and so loses all respect for himself and for others. And having no respect he ceases to love.”

Fyodor Dostoyevsky, The Brothers Karamazov (1879)

Immanuel Kant: Questions

1. *How can we reconcile duty and autonomy?*

Acting out of duty is to follow a moral law that you impose on yourself

2. *How many moral laws are there?*

The moral law I choose is based on the same reason than someone else's moral law

3. *How is a categorical imperative possible?*

The idea of freedom makes me a member of an intelligible world

Immanuel Kant

Is Kant's definition of morality too stringent?

It is fine to have emotions and inclinations when thinking about an action,
as long as they do not provide the reasons for acting.