

“Moral Beings”, Is-Ought, Fact-Value, and Other (Big) Stuff

By Jeff Huggins

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If it's correct that we humans, in all reasonable likelihood, can't achieve “final certainty” in our knowledge and understanding of the universe and of all of its dynamics;

And if we avoid (as we normally try to do in our scientific and philosophical discussions) making an assumption of the existence of a supernatural authority (i.e., if we avoid invoking an assumption, either consciously or unknowingly, that such an authority exists);

Then I believe the following can be said:

EITHER (1) Humans ARE “moral beings” (in the sense of that phrase used by scientists and most philosophers) AND there IS a central connective “bridge” between “ought” and “is”, and between “value” and “fact”;

OR (2) IF there is no central connective bridge between “ought” and “is”, and between “value” and “fact”, then humans must NOT be “moral beings” after all.

Of course, in all likelihood, (1) is the case.

One (very important) implication of (2) is that, within the context of the two parameters or assumptions mentioned at the start, if (2) is correct, and if someone holds a view that there is NO central connective bridge between “is” and “ought”, then (consistent with (2)) it must follow that humans must not be “moral beings” after all. This relationship holds, I believe, in the context mentioned and as long as one also considers that humans are part of the universe itself, and subject to its dynamics, rather than being “apart” from it and “above” it.

For more context and information, please refer to my recent messages on CHORA and PHILOS-L:

My message, ""The Bridge: A-QED"", on CHORA (June 27).

My message, "WHY and WHY and WHY", on CHORA (July 1).

My message, "Darwin, Camus, and Hamlet went into a bar, AND . . .", on CHORA (June 13).

My message, "Speaking of Hands, and Adaptations, and . . .", on CHORA (June 28).

My message, ""Robot Revelations": An Opportunity", on PHILOS-L (June 22).

My message, "To Scientifically Informed Philosophers and Philosophically Minded Scientists", on PHILOS-L (June 9).

Also, if you are interested in more detail and explanation, you can refer to other materials on my website, www.ObligationsOfReason.com . I'd suggest the following materials, all included on the "Additional Material From The Author" page of the site:

"On Morality: Key Considerations and a Bridge"

"What good am I?"

"On Morality"

"Regarding 'Directional Dynamics' and 'Normative Facts'"

"The Morality of Sustainability: A DIY Exploration"

"A Framework and Paradigm Of Morality"

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Be Well,

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