

# IS RIGHT AND WRONG RIGHT OR WRONG?

*Might we be wrong- in the rightness we are convinced of?  
And if not- if that is not a possibility for us-  
then what the hell is wrong with us?!*

Is it about right and wrong, or isn't it? This Life we are trying to make sense of. Are these categories spot on- or are they overly simplistic? Often what's 'right' and 'wrong' is very clear. Although sometimes it's not about 'right' or 'wrong' as a universal standard, but the unfolding course of best choices through a complex and nuanced set of situations. Clearly, sometimes what's right for one person is not right for another. And 'what's right' might be deeply entwined with what each person needs to go through (based on their own circumstances and social, economic, environmental or even spiritual influences) to grow. Without causing harm to themselves or others, of course. And yet, though we may not wish for it- nor wish it on others- we undeniably grow through adversity as well.

We might all agree that causing physical harm intentionally is 'wrong.' But what if it's accidental? And what of other kinds of harm too? Perhaps there is a certain degree of emotional and mental pain we need to go through to mature. But that doesn't mean it's 'right' to inflict it upon others. Of course not. For couldn't that also be construed as 'harm'? And isn't that wrong? Perhaps we would rather do without mental and emotional hardship altogether- but then, would we mature, develop, grow, become resilient? Would all be right in the world then? There are lots of open questions here. And yet categories of 'right' and 'wrong' stand. Do they not? Certainly they do to the extent that we understand these categories, and live by them.

Perhaps it's both relative and absolute. There can be absolute definitions, but relative circumstances. Each person has the freedom to make their own decisions, and make their own mistakes, as well as their good choices. To live their own life, and learn their own lessons. And of course, such learning requires the relational conditions of 'the world.' The array of differences and thus, possibility. Could it realistically be any other way?

And yet in this, surely there are certain principles that universally support life- and certain things that are more universally a disservice to it- or in dissonance with it- and harmful to it- to the growth and development of the character of individuals, and the wider world. So it's a balance, isn't it?- of particular and different experience(s), in the Oneness of Life. Particularity in service to the universality of Love and Love's Journey (of Itself... which is us. In our own separate ways). It's not very easy to explain, is it? To finalise 'what's right' and 'what's wrong' once and for all? Perhaps it needs context. Perhaps it *is* context? Maybe that determines what's right and wrong.

In the absence of being able to directly guide people back to their true nature- or giving them the tools to do that themselves (because maybe we don't know what the tools are exactly, that precisely those individuals need...), we may (society might) point them to morals. To moralistic understandings, which help guide people into channels of being that may be useful to them and the wider world. It's a good start. It's certainly clear, albeit rather rigid. But that will never be enough. It's a good substitute. But poor, when we become overly moralistic- set

in standards that might exist- but we may have forgotten why they exist and what they are in service to. Like robots living robot morals without knowing the reasons for the stipulations.

It is each person's responsibility to take up the exploration for themselves at this point- to examine what life is, and the best way to live it. We know this, don't we? The morals are just the preparation- the guide, for the journey. The suggested parameters that may help us in and on our journey- and journeys- of discovery. With morals, always, in the end, you need to know the reasons behind them. That is, once you have exhausted the mere compliance phase. And you pick up that reasoning, realisation and understanding through your own experience.

When you really know '*so that's why!*' moral structures tell you what they do- when you really see it- the wisdom behind the words- then such structures encapsulate wisdom and knowledge for *you*. Wisdom and knowledge that you have reached, through the experience of your own life- your own living *life process*. Rooted in words. Then it sits well. Internally. Then it works. The structures are given life and meaning. Re-vivified. Rather than just externalities.

Until then... it's just standards prescribed. You have to find out for yourself. Why they are prescribed, why they have stood the test of time. You have to experience the resistance to established moral structures, in order to move away from them- and then perhaps have some learning experiences that bring you back to them. This is the freedom required for growth. This is the movement of life that happens, when life is allowed to move... and is not sidelined into moralistic pigeonholes or conformist limitations for the sake of doing so.

Perhaps life is about the right thing for the right person in the right context. The particular time and space conditions. Any misinterpretation is your own responsibility. Of course it is- it's your own life. And we live by our own (mis)interpretations. (Hopefully the living is the process of attunement- dissolving wrong ideas to right ones). Whether it's the interpreting of the natural world, or the fabrications of society and human-made constructs. You are in the driving seat, are you not? If not, why not? Are you being driven? By who? Or what?

Of course, there is the flow of higher power, creative intelligence, guiding you on. But this is not the same as gullibility to apparently 'higher' worldly powers and their motives. These are very different signals- even though the impulse for a higher power may be redirected towards the state, once God has been denied in a society. Once notions of God have been cheapened, destroyed, and made unfashionable within any given society that re-focuses its energy on living in a godless way in a godless world, serving godless gods for fulfilment. If that were even possible.

There are so many views, divergences, disagreements. And argumentation just doesn't cut it. It never solves everything once and for all. Although it can be useful and necessary- a great tool towards still greater understanding. Useful and necessary to a significant extent. But perhaps we ought to live by our values more than merely our points of view. What you want to live by, for and *as*. The living of it, rather than just the speaking of it. What you stand for. Of course, we want to be aligned in thoughts words, and actions, surely. A harmony of self necessary for there to be harmony between self and others. And harmony in (the) world.

We can live this way (what way? It's up to you...), in the knowing acceptance that we each have a particular situation, a specific positionality. An acceptance that what's right for different people differs at different times and places. Right things for the right person at the right time. And it isn't for anyone else to judge. Is it? So long as there has been no harm, no

transgression. In humility, perhaps we do less harm. We see that not everyone else has had the same experiences as us- or is configured the same as us- and so of course, they will come to different conclusions about the nature of life. A path of development based on past experience and karma. A development towards the future. Without projecting onto others. We must each go our own way. We all do. And it's all somehow necessary to the bigger picture.

We can all live by our values and still live differently. Living with a humility that doesn't accuse others of 'being wrong' just because they have a different point of view to us. Who knows- maybe the *values* are shared. (E.g. One person is *against* a policy, and another *for* it- but both positions emerge out of a desire for what's in the best interests of those the policy is aimed at, or designed for). But if your ego feels insecure and threatened by insecurity when in relation to the contrary points of view of others- then maybe you won't get that far.

Which, again, is the importance of self-development- so that we can be secure enough in ourselves, in a world of difference. And in a world of insecurity too, for that matter. Minimising the suffering we cause, by not attempting to control what's right for other people. So long as no harm is being done to person or property or livelihood. Perhaps being secure in ourselves is about knowing the ultimate context of everything- the Unity of Spirit- Consciousness- that every divergent way is born out of and returns to- even exists in now.

Still, we are all entitled to share our opinions, and take a strong standpoint where necessary. Such opinions may work for us- but if we claim that others must live by them too, then we might be trying to help... but we might also be being tyrannical. It can be a difficult line to tread when you are convinced that your way is the right way- or think what you know is the truth. And without the humility of living our higher-awareness values, we may become the very tyrants we might claim to be fighting against. This is why we pause and reflect.

What is this higher awareness? We are living together as one. Differently. We can, hopefully, hold a sensitive awareness of our differences, without needing to eliminate them- and the variety of opportunity to experience that they give birth to. (And maybe we think otherwise).

Sometimes on the left of the spectrum- sometimes on the right- sometimes in the middle. Sometimes individually-focused, sometimes more community-minded. Maybe both at once, at times. Sometimes high-brow, sometimes low-brow. Sometimes nothing of culture at all. If we're just stuck in one particular area of experience we are more limited than we might be.

Perhaps we can integrate all the different aspects of ourselves into one, without losing access to any of them, and without contradiction. The Light and the shadow. And then maybe we will be more balanced in ourselves and more able to accommodate other ways of life and living, and other people- without feeling threatened or on edge. Because really, it is partial and limited identification with a particular aspect of the totality of experience that sets us at odds with others. That sets us into a rigid point of view- where Life (and its values) is obscured and overridden by an unrealistic streamlining of the wholeness of who and what we are, into much less. Into falsehoods and categories that do not always serve.

Different people need different things. And each of us may need different things at different points in time- in the different chapters of our lives. This is *Life*, in the different chapters of itself. Is it right or wrong? It's difficult to tell. It is what it is. It is all of it. We can only do our best to live rightly. It all comes back to us in the end.

~Nathan Godolphin,  
17/01/22.