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Subject: Re: Debate on Altruism.

Posted by [cheesesoda](#) on Thu, 12 Feb 2009 11:03:54 GMT

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reborn wrote on Thu, 12 February 2009 02:38 To believe that altruism does not exist, is to say that all Bhuddists are driven by personal, selfish motivations. This is not true.

I'm compelled to do something when I see the needs of other people. This is not out of a feeling of guilt, or to relieve my own guilt, because I feel none. It isn't to make me feel better about myself through charitable actions, I just feel the need to free people from suffering. This feeling comes from empathy, and the empathy comes from meditation, which leads me to strive towards freeing people from suffering.

Besides, believing that altruism doesn't exist must mean you do not believe in unconditional love, surely?

Okay, how about this. Say you see someone that you're compelled to help, but you choose to just ignore the situation instead of acting on it. Would you feel guilt for your lack of action? If so, you're clearly acting out of self-interest.

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