Subject: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by Spoony on Wed, 09 Apr 2008 20:39:21 GMT
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just had the weirdest thought I've had in ages.

we all know the expression: 'the greatest trick the Devil ever pulled was convincing the world he didn't exist'.

Wouldn't it be a good trick for God to pull to convince the world he didn't exist? Because then, anybody's personal decisions on morality and philosophy would have to be made for their own sake, instead of following a centuries-old doctrine or done out of the promise (or fear) of the after-death consequences...

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by Herr Surth on Wed, 09 Apr 2008 20:45:15 GMT
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Are you high right now?

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by nikki6ixx on Wed, 09 Apr 2008 21:32:16 GMT
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It would mean God would have a sense of humour. However, judging by plenty of his die-hard followers, I'd have to say he doesn't have one.

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by jimmyny on Wed, 09 Apr 2008 23:19:43 GMT
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nikki6ixx wrote on Wed, 09 April 2008 16:32It would mean God would have a sense of humour. However, judging by plenty of his die-hard followers, I'd have to say he doesn't have one.

!rec nikki awesome

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by Dave Anderson on Thu, 10 Apr 2008 01:55:07 GMT
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If you have read the Bible, you would know that he is also a humerous God.

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by R315r4z0r on Thu, 10 Apr 2008 02:14:50 GMT
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Spoony wrote on Wed, 09 April 2008 16:39we all know the expression: 'the greatest trick the Devil ever pulled was convincing the world he didn't exist'.
I have never heard this expression once. Ever.

& also, welcome to the world of Atheism.

---

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by Jamie or NuneGa on Thu, 10 Apr 2008 12:10:25 GMT
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DeadX wrote on Thu, 10 April 2008 02:55If you have read the Bible, you would know that he is also a humerous God.

god - 'abraham kill ur son pls... lol'

agreed :/

---

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by Ma1kel on Fri, 11 Apr 2008 15:33:16 GMT
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Is Spoony high or something?

---

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by _SSnipe_ on Sat, 12 Apr 2008 05:04:31 GMT
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Ma1kel wrote on Fri, 11 April 2008 08:33Is Spoony high or something?
or drunk

---

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by R315r4z0r on Sat, 12 Apr 2008 05:06:33 GMT
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Or both... O_o

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Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by Herr Surth on Sat, 12 Apr 2008 07:48:48 GMT
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all of the above

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Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by Ryu on Sun, 13 Apr 2008 02:06:36 GMT
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Surth wrote on Sat, 12 April 2008 08:48all of the above

Fuck it, cut the cord! LIGHTS OUT! GUERRILLA RADIO! TURN THAT SHIT UP!

---

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by Chuck Norris on Sun, 13 Apr 2008 06:07:44 GMT
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out of promise or fear relating to God. It's probably only a small percentage of people that do.

---

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by Spoony on Sun, 13 Apr 2008 10:05:40 GMT
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Chuck Norris wrote on Sun, 13 April 2008 01:07Not everyone who considers themselves to have
good morals do so out of promise or fear relating to God. It's probably only a small percentage of
people that do.
I didn't say they all did. I basically said you don't know.

---

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by R315r4z0r on Sun, 13 Apr 2008 22:05:18 GMT
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I hate it when people do good things cause they want to be "rewarded by God."

That is just being selfish.

---

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by Blazer on Mon, 14 Apr 2008 02:18:54 GMT
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I hate it when people do bad things in order to get rewarded...like killing "infidels"

---

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by Spoony on Mon, 14 Apr 2008 07:53:28 GMT
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mmhmm.

you could very well argue that a good deed for selfish reasons doesn't change the goodness. e.g.
if a person donates $1000 to charity that they spent months saving up, and if McDonalds donated
$1000 to the same charity that they earned in like half a second and just wanted to get some good
publicity, the money's still gonna do the same thing.

---

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by Ma1kel on Mon, 14 Apr 2008 14:14:33 GMT
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Or you could argue "good" and "bad" don't exist, but are created as part of morals by
culture/society to make people feel bad or good about things as to protect culture/society.

But that would be hard thinking.

---

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by R315r4z0r on Mon, 14 Apr 2008 20:12:09 GMT
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Yes, that is true, but it isn't a good deed though.

The act of doing the deed for a reward takes away the fact that it is a "good" deed, no? The
effects of the deed may be positive, but the act of doing it was negative.

It really doesn't matter either way though, someone will get rewarded...

---

## Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by cheesesoda on Tue, 15 Apr 2008 17:12:54 GMT
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Spoony wrote on Mon, 14 April 2008 03:53mmhmm.

you could very well argue that a good deed for selfish reasons doesn't change the goodness. e.g. if a person donates $1000 to charity that they spent months saving up, and if McDonalds donated $1000 to the same charity that they earned in like half a second and just wanted to get some good publicity, the money's still gonna do the same thing.
Then you'd be arguing Consequentionalist ethics, and those are just utterly fail. The fact that an act does some good doesn't prove that the act, in itself is good.

I could lynch a black guy in order to stop a riot created by the raping of a white woman. It stops the riot because someone was punished for the act. It was an innocent man, and killing him made people rest easier and prevented the deaths of those that got swallowed up by the riot. It had a good result, overall, but the total lack of justice makes me scoff at the idea that this could be considered moral.

I'll take my Deontological ethics, where intent is what matters regarding morality.

## Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by Spoony on Wed, 16 Apr 2008 08:41:16 GMT
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cheesesoda wrote on Tue, 15 April 2008 12:12Spoony wrote on Mon, 14 April 2008 03:53mmhmm.

you could very well argue that a good deed for selfish reasons doesn't change the goodness. e.g. if a person donates $1000 to charity that they spent months saving up, and if McDonalds donated $1000 to the same charity that they earned in like half a second and just wanted to get some good publicity, the money's still gonna do the same thing.
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I'll take my Deontological ethics, where intent is what matters regarding morality.
tell that to the starving kids; take away their new clean well dug by the money McDonalds donated like the champion of morality you are.

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by cheesesoda on Wed, 16 Apr 2008 12:53:36 GMT
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You do realize that what I'm saying is just that the act may not be moral if it's for the wrong purposes, but I'm certainly not discounting the good it would do, right? I would just have a lot more respect for the individual who donated $1000 versus a corporation like McDonald's.

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by Starbuzz on Wed, 16 Apr 2008 18:05:28 GMT
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I see no difference between a person and McDonalds donating $1000.

I wonder what would happen if Bill Gates does all his charity work anonymously under the Microsoft name rather than the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Should Microsoft then deserve less respect because it is a money-making corporation? I don't think so.

Just because it's a corporation does not necessarily mean there is a lack of humanity. It is the difficulty of seeing the people behind the corporation that create this false illusion that a stand-alone person's donations are better.

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by cheesesoda on Wed, 16 Apr 2008 19:01:54 GMT
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Are you guys seriously missing the point, or are you just being assholes? Assuming the former...

My argument isn't against the act itself. If someone donates money, kudos. I'm not going to hate a corporation for donating because they're a corporation. I'm merely saying that the consequences of an act should not be the determining factor on whether or not it was a good/moral act.

Again, I refer to my rape and lynching example.

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by nikki6ixx on Wed, 16 Apr 2008 19:07:10 GMT
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I donate to certain charities because of the write-off's, and not so much of my being a tender, caring soul.

The money still does the same thing. Sure, it makes me look like a cynical asshole, but it'll still help get people off the streets all the same.

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by warranto on Wed, 16 Apr 2008 19:45:27 GMT
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cheesesoda wrote on Tue, 15 April 2008 11:12
I'll take my Deontological ethics, where intent is what matters regarding morality.

Heh, Deontological ethics has its issues as well. Not saying it is wrong, just that it has issues.

Consequentialism is what most people follow anyway, usually in the Utilitarian form. (Mills-style libertarianism, for example.)

---

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by Herr Surth on Wed, 16 Apr 2008 20:06:57 GMT
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Spoony prefers Dentistological Ethics tbh.

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Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by cheesesoda on Wed, 16 Apr 2008 20:14:44 GMT
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warranto wrote on Wed, 16 April 2008 15:45cheesesoda wrote on Tue, 15 April 2008 11:12
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Heh, Deontological ethics has its issues as well. Not saying it is wrong, just that it has issues.

Consequentialism is what most people follow anyway, usually in the Utilitarian form. (Mills-style libertarianism, for example.)
Oh, trust me, I know. Still, I'd rather use the philosophy that my intent is ultimately what matters versus what comes of my actions. I just can't see myself ever completely agreeing with Kantian ethics, especially.

I hate Utilitarianism, though. While a lot of what I view is widely accepted by most Utilitarians, how I get to it personally is a bit different. Plus, anything and everything could be twisted using this thought pattern. Utilitarianism doesn't respect justice or rights unless that's what maximizes benefit (which, granted, it does often enough, but you can argue cases where it wouldn't).

Me, personally, I tend to mix and match a few different moral philosophies. I'm a Social Contract theorist with some Ethics of Care, Virtue Ethics, Kantian ethics, and Ethical Humanism. I think it's important that we respect everybody and agree to disagree while respecting their autonomy, but I will put my friends and family first above anyone else.

---

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...

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Posted by warranto on Wed, 16 Apr 2008 20:27:55 GMT
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Heh, the only real issue there is what if your intent lead to someone's death?

Your intent was to save an individual who was choking, but because of your lack of education you end up doing the Heimlich Maneuver wrong, breaking ribs which puncture the lungs of the person and end up killing him. The intent was to save a life, but the consequence was death.

Anyway, I don't mean to pull this off topic, just something to illustrate some issues with intent.

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by Herr Surth on Wed, 16 Apr 2008 20:31:35 GMT
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tbh both intent and outcome matter. You cant say in general which matters more, thats different from situation to situation.

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by cheesesoda on Wed, 16 Apr 2008 20:32:21 GMT
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Still, the act of saving a life wasn't immoral. He was misguided and should feel guilty for what consequences came about his actions, but I can't imagine I'd be there and think of him as immoral.

Obviously, the consequences still matter. I just don't think they determine what is or what isn't immoral. I'm not saying it's perfectly fine for people to act in blissful ignorance, but if they're not capable of more, then I wouldn't call them immoral.

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by R315r4z0r on Wed, 16 Apr 2008 21:22:05 GMT
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What people fail to understand is that you can't generalize everything.

Just because the means to do something with a positive effect would be considered "wrong" doesn't mean you get to say that because of that everything done for "good" reason is wrong.

Everything depends on the situation. Using Cheesesoda's example of lynching an innocent man to stop a riot, while it may be wrong to hurt an innocent man even if it is to stop a larger problem, it doesn't mean that EVERYTHING has to be aligned to those terms. If I was to do something to appease the riot other than commit another crime then it has a positive effect with no negative input. Same effect, less negativity.

I hate it when people standardize everything. Just because something can be done one way, doesn't mean that it can't be done another way with the same outcome.

---

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by warranto on Thu, 17 Apr 2008 03:46:16 GMT
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Heh, I didn't intend it to be a great example, just an example. I picked a poor one on purpose to avoid an in-depth discussion on ethics.

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Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by egoflux0 on Sun, 20 Apr 2008 01:08:00 GMT
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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugenics

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Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by cheesesoda on Sun, 20 Apr 2008 04:12:48 GMT
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Oh, silly people. LETZ KREATE SUPERER RASE.

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Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by R315r4z0r on Sun, 20 Apr 2008 06:39:51 GMT
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egoflux0 wrote on Sat, 19 April 2008 21:08http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugenics


This is possibly the worst idea in the history of mankind.

---

Subject: Re: The greatest trick the Devil ever pulled...
Posted by Starbuzz on Sun, 20 Apr 2008 19:31:18 GMT
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R315r4z0r wrote on Sun, 20 April 2008 01:39egoflux0 wrote on Sat, 19 April 2008 21:08http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugenics

This is possibly the worst idea in the history of mankind.

Seconded. That's total crap. I agree.

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