Absolute Universal Moral Standards

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In order to find out whether objective moral values exist or not, morality should be defined first. Moral standards are values that have been determined not by some subjective means but by a supreme power (God, for instance) and, therefore, they often have a religious character. Pojman (1995) states that “the morality can be closely bound up with religion, and moral behavior is typically held to be essential to the practice of religion” (p. 2). While evaluating whether moral standards are absolute or not, it is of vital importance to determine if there is an objective meaning of good and evil virtue or conduct that is universal among all groups and cultures.

I completely disagree with the statement that there are no absolute standards of morality binding on humans at all times and in all places. In contrast, the beliefs that there are not universally valid moral values are called ethical relativism and ethical skepticism. It is opposite to moral absolutism according to which they do exist. Mulgrew (2007) states that while ethical relativism and skepticism are accepted by society and are rather common there are no enough arguments to support them due to the fact that there is no differentiation between the good and evil. According to Mulgrew, “proponents of moral relativism, the opposite of moral absolutism, in essence deny the moral difference between war and peace, freedom and slavery, or ignorance and strength” (Mulgrew, 2007).

Moral absolutism is a view according to which, there are universally accepted values that define what is right and what is wrong. They are applicable to all cultures in the world. Obviously, it is absolutely wrong to murder or tell lies under any circumstances and. Let us observe the situation when lies or murder are inevitable and there are no other options. For example, during the WWII, there were people who managed to hide Jews in cellars to save them
from Nazis. Then, if someone asked, they lied in order to save Jewish people. Was it right to lie under those circumstances? If to think that in the present case lying was justified, then it cannot be considered an absolute moral standard. It turns out that telling lies in certain situations is quite justified. It should be mentioned that moral absolutism depends on ethical vision.

Morality is the best way to keep people out of each other’s personal territory in order to get on with living without constantly fearing of each other. By the way, it is necessary for socializing. People can decide if they want to make life or take it. Without absolute moral standards, it would be scary to realize that every single human has the ability to take someone’s life. Thus, this is an issue that needs to be backed up by the majority of people and government.

“It is this capacity for reason that makes us able to refrain from acting out of impulse or the desire for pleasure and free to act out of principle and moral duty” (Josephson, 2010). Tending to focus power to guide people's moral intentions and losing sight of the simple forms of morality, mankind got another problem. However, it is better to deal with society's imperfection than complete anarchy.

Without certain absolute universal moral standards, people would become animals. In their world, there is no difference between bad and good, right or wrong, truth and false, legal or illegal. Every animal species has been given an inspirational knowledge according to its needs. By its virtue, a bird can fly, a fish can swim, a weaver-bird builds the nest, and a bee makes the beehive. Mankind is also in view of different capacities and has been granted separate kinds of inspirational knowledge. However, people are still related to animals. It should be mentioned that people are rational beings since the time of creation. Consequently, they make inventions, develop civilizations and discover new things. Besides, people are moral beings who have an understanding of the evil to be evil and the good to be good. Actually, this sense of
understanding is a universal moral value, due to the fact that no human society in history has ever been without the concepts of evil and good. There were no society with no punishment for the evil and reward for the good. Such a rule worked out everywhere, in every age and stage of development. Furthermore, knowledge and laws which govern the material system of the world are the elements which people’s life is based on. These issues are a valid proof that universal moral standards actually exist.

To summarize all the above mentioned, I completely disagree with the statement that there are no absolute standards of morality binding on humans at all times and in all places. Respect and good can be considered as examples of absolute moral values. Suffering brings harm that spreads everywhere, causing grief, anger, agony, hate and despair. Hate and anger are emotions that must be rooted out before they destroy a person from inside. They can destroy a person not only physically, but socially and emotionally. Even when there is a different point of view based on some political or religious views, without universal moral standards, people would not differ from the animal world.
References

