

Re: Challenges for Evolutionary Ethics

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Challenges for Evolutionary Ethics

How can a trait that was developed under the pressure of natural selection explain moral actions that go far beyond reciprocal altruism or enlightened self-interest? How can, for instance, the action of Maximilian Kolbe be explained from a biological point of view? (Kolbe was a German priest who starved himself to death in a concentration camp to rescue a fellow prisoner.)

Could not human beings have moved beyond their biological roots and transcended their evolutionary origins, in which case they would be able to formulate goals in the pursuit of goodness, beauty, and truth that "have nothing to do directly with survival, and which may at times militate against survival?" (O'Hear, 1997: 203).

FB:

This is the theme of my article *Alive and Human*. Evolution and Reason are two decoupled survival systems. Reason provides analogies to Evolution in a different level, like superseding biological adaptation with technological adaptation. Other examples can be found in the aforementioned article (google groups). For all practical considerations evolution is stopped and that is the main difference between Rational Living Beings (Man) and Irrational Living Beings.

Response:

Is English your second language? I ask because alot of what you write while written correctly in english doesn't make much sense. If that is the case perhaps in your native language you would have better success..or perhaps not.

FB:

I admit I am writing in a hurry and under inconvenient circumstances; can't afford reviewing since I can lose what I just wrote (no clipboard available).

Response:

I think "reason" or "intelligence" is a part of our Darwinian evolution and all our scientific, medical and technological advances wouldn't have been possible without it. This doesn't detract from the reality there is a huge lag between our biological evolution and cultural evolution e.g. scientific and technological developments but just to highlight all these scientific and technological developments are based on our DNA which in turn was most likely based on RNA and so on. All the great advances thus far in physics, technology, science, medicine and other fields have been made possible by the minds of humans (recently in our evolutionary history as a species) not by nanotechnological machine