

## MORALITY: PRAGMATIC, UTOPIAN, AND REALISTIC

A pragmatic morality is one designed for a real society: it is just as conformist as a Realpolitik. In contrast, a utopian morality is one designed for a yet to be ideal society, usually one of saints. The former is designed to help us solve or skirt moral problems here and now, whereas a utopian morality is part and parcel of any social blueprint.

The moral philosopher ought to be half a pragmatist and half a utopian. He cannot be a full pragmatist because he must condemn immorality even if he has no power to fight it. And he cannot take refuge in the future because he is presumably asked to give his opinions on pressing moral problems. If he is to make a contribution to moral progress, the philosopher must act as a bridge between the present and the future. He must point out vice while admitting

that virtue cannot be acquired overnight; he must examine the present practice of justice and compare it with ideal justice;