

ETHICS: BIOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL ROOTS

All social animals have behavior patterns that seem (anthropomorphically) ruled by moral codes. For example, they condemn/^{the}murder of individuals of the same species-- which is understandable, for murder tears the fabric of society. Also, altruism or the help of other individuals of the same species is rather common.

Every organism is born with certain propensities that are activated or inhibited by environmental inputs (or lack of suitable inputs). And, since the environment of social animals is ^{partly}~~both~~ natural and partly social, their behavior is conditioned (though not fully determined) by that physico-social environment.

Innatism neglects the environment and environmentalism ignores the inborn propensities (thpse "written in our genetic code", to speak metaphorically).

Look up E. O. WILSON, Sociobiology (Harvard UP 1975).

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