

INTRINSIC OR BASIC VALUES: IRRATIONAL?

Life, or rather enjoying life, is the supreme value. Why should it be? There is no philosophical, in particular ethical, justification for this judgment value. But physiological psychology is competent to explain why normal primates and other higher vertebrates enjoy life and are willing to fight for it, namely because (and to the extent that) they have intact limbic systems. Hence although we cannot give a moral justification for holding that value, we can give a scientific justification (explanation). Moreover, morals are built upon that value judgment, i.e. axiology precedes morality. In fact, reciprocity and, in particular, mutual help, is an ^{valuable means} ~~instrumental~~ value that can be justified by saying that, since no individual is self-sufficient, he needs help from others, in exchange for which he must be prepared to give help.

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