

III-16. Conduct with Consistency

A relationship between principles and conduct is often invoked to guide personal growth and safeguard social behaviors. Such concerns have occupied virtually all societies ever since settlements began to appear 10,000 years ago. Different cultures have devised wide ranging motives. Once I asserted that I do not believe in God. My niece Preeti, then 13 years old, asked, "If there is no fear of God, why can't we do anything we want?" Fortunately, during the next five years she grew-out of mind set. She learnt to be more afraid of inconsistencies and contradictions of her own actions that she could not justify to herself.

Virtually all societies seek a consistent way of doing things. Consistency can be extrapolated to predict future behaviors on which we can build our expectations. Here wisdom is *do not do to others what you do not want to be done to you*. Validity of sustained behaviors can be evaluated on the basis of their consequences. In consequence evaluations a cases the cause is not always obvious, nor a particular outcome is absolutely assured by a particular behavior.

Consistency of actions results in directed efforts that bear consequences. Random acts do not add up to anything thing of significance. The idea of usable knowledge through human efforts has resulted in virtually everything we have come to rely. It is further encouraged through virtually all fields of open inquiry including education, technologies and sciences.

Against Gods and Humbug

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