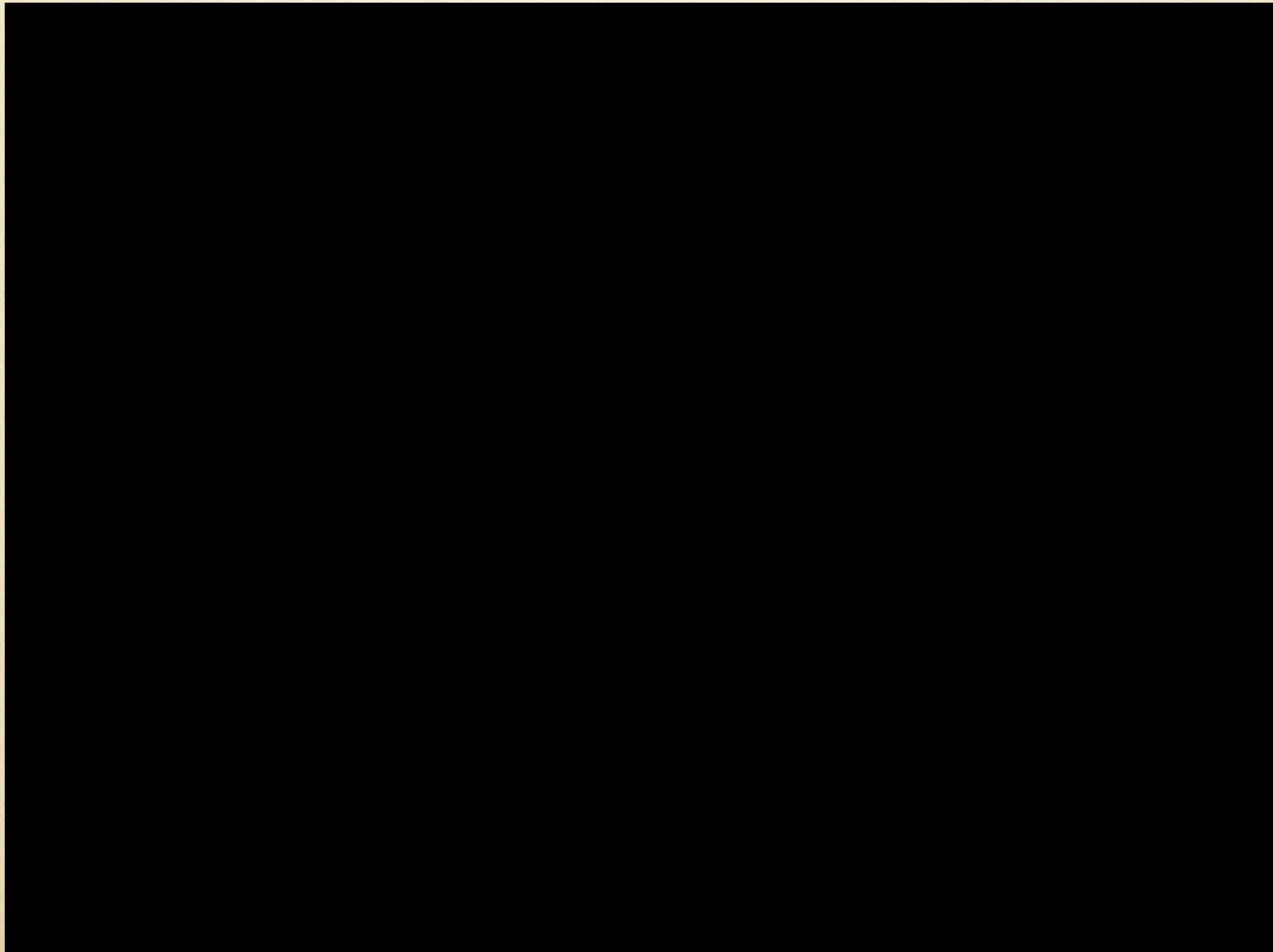# Ethics Part 2

This teacher does NOT support the Ethical Treatment of students.

McFrance
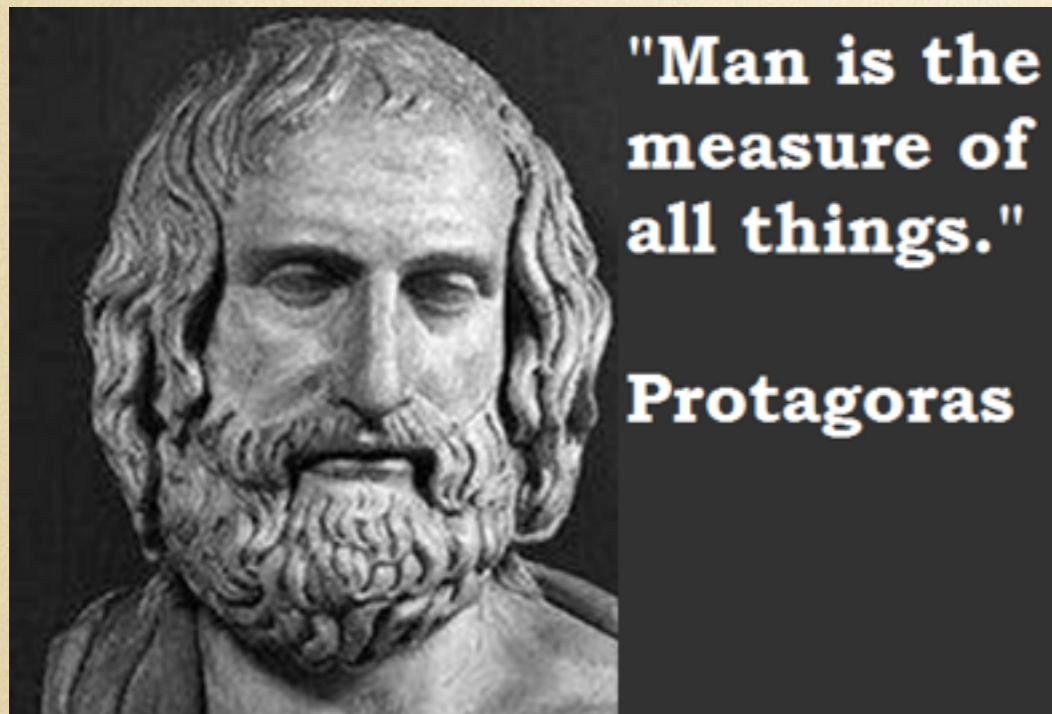
What's right for me...

- Sophists (3rd Century BCE)

  - What is right and wrong are merely perceptions.

  - Vary from one place to another

  - Vary from one generation to the next

To Protect, Serve & Loot

I'm one man tall

"Man is the measure of all things."

Protagoras

- If something is right or wrong (bad or good) depends on a person's needs

No but I NEEEED this

- When does a person's "needs" outweigh what is considered "right"?

It's just [insert topic], there's nothing wrong with it.

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- Is it okay for youth to drink alcoholic beverages socially?

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- Do extreme music styles on listener's lives?

WYR

- Be a brain in a jar hooked up to a computer forever

- OR

- Live a normal life span but as a cyborg

Your Epicurus is showing

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- The aim of life was to attain the highest possible sensory enjoyment.

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- Epicurus wished to develop a way of life whose aim was to avoid pain in all forms.

All the coke on that table you can't snort that

- Epicurus (341-270 BC) emphasized that the pleasurable results of an action must always be weighed against its possible side effects. (i.e., cocaine use, alcohol, etc…)

- Epicurus believed that a pleasurable result in the short term must be weighed against the possibility of a greater, more lasting, or more intense pleasure in the long term.

Get your mind out the gutter

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- temperance,

- and serenity.

Such a Cynic

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- (4th century BC)

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- The Cynics believe that people did not even need to be concerned about their own health.

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- "A life lived according to nature requires only the bare necessities required for existence, and one can become free by unshackling oneself from any needs which are the result of convention"

- The Cynics believed they should not let themselves be tormented by concern for other people's woes (i.e., a death of a good friend)

A Cynical Approach

- The Cynics believed that if "salvation" is to be found, it is to be found in a rejection of society and in a return to the simple life.

- The Cynics believed that the world was fundamentally "evil"; in order to live properly, people must withdraw from participation in it.

- All externals, whether private or public, must be dispensed with. If a person is to find "salvation" in the world, he must find it within himself- this is what virtue consists in.

- The Cynics thus advocated a rejection of the goods of the world, and in this way tried to show people that by ignoring such externals they would be emancipated from fear.

Questions

- How could you become a Cynic today? Or is it even possible to become one anymore?

- What problems do you see with this outlook?

- Do you think you could become a Cynic?

Remain Stoic

KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON

- 3rd Century BCE

- "Accept your destiny" (nothing happens by accident, so don't complain)

- Remain indifferent to the world and you can avoid the "evil" of the world.

Ethics from the Mountain Top

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make idols.
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

The Evil Within?

- Where does evil come from?

- St. Augustine believed evil was *"the absence of god."*

- Who would disagree with this opinion?

WYR

- Have a completely functioning, athletic body that cannot communicate.

- OR

- Be completely paralyzed but be able to communicate as you can now.

Baruch Spinoza

- **Free yourself from feelings and passions.**

- Understand limits and don't waste energy on "ambition" and "lust"

- Who else would agree with this?

How Very Hume-rous

- David Hume 1711-1776

- Rationalism doesn't work for ethics. According to Hume **we don't use our reasons when making decisions, we use our sentiments.**

- If you decide to help it's because of your **feelings** not your **reasons.**
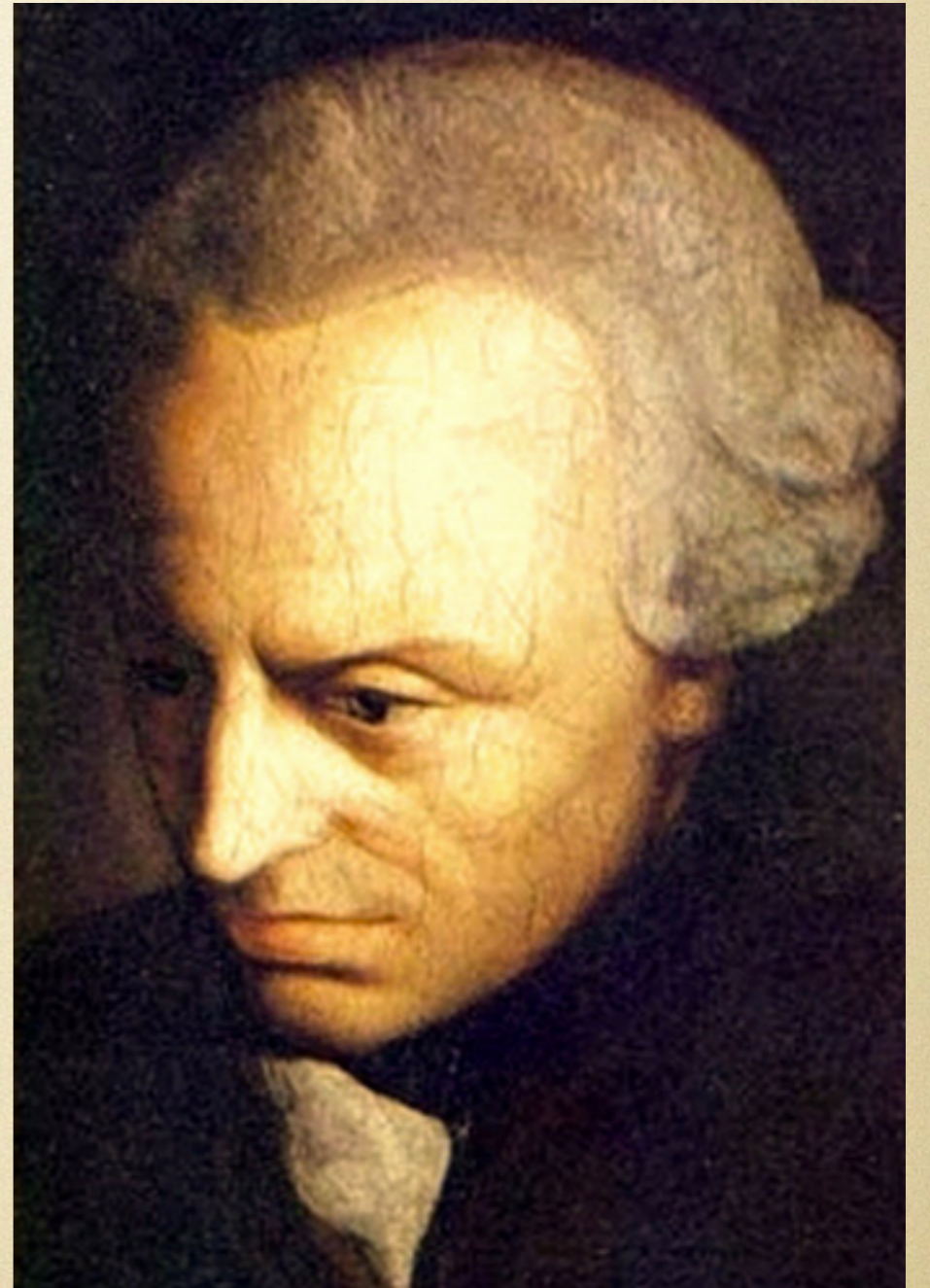
- What's the difference between reason and feelings?

A Hume-ungous Problem

- **Hume's Law (ought-is problem)**

- **When we talk about how morals work we say "ought to" instead of how things work.**

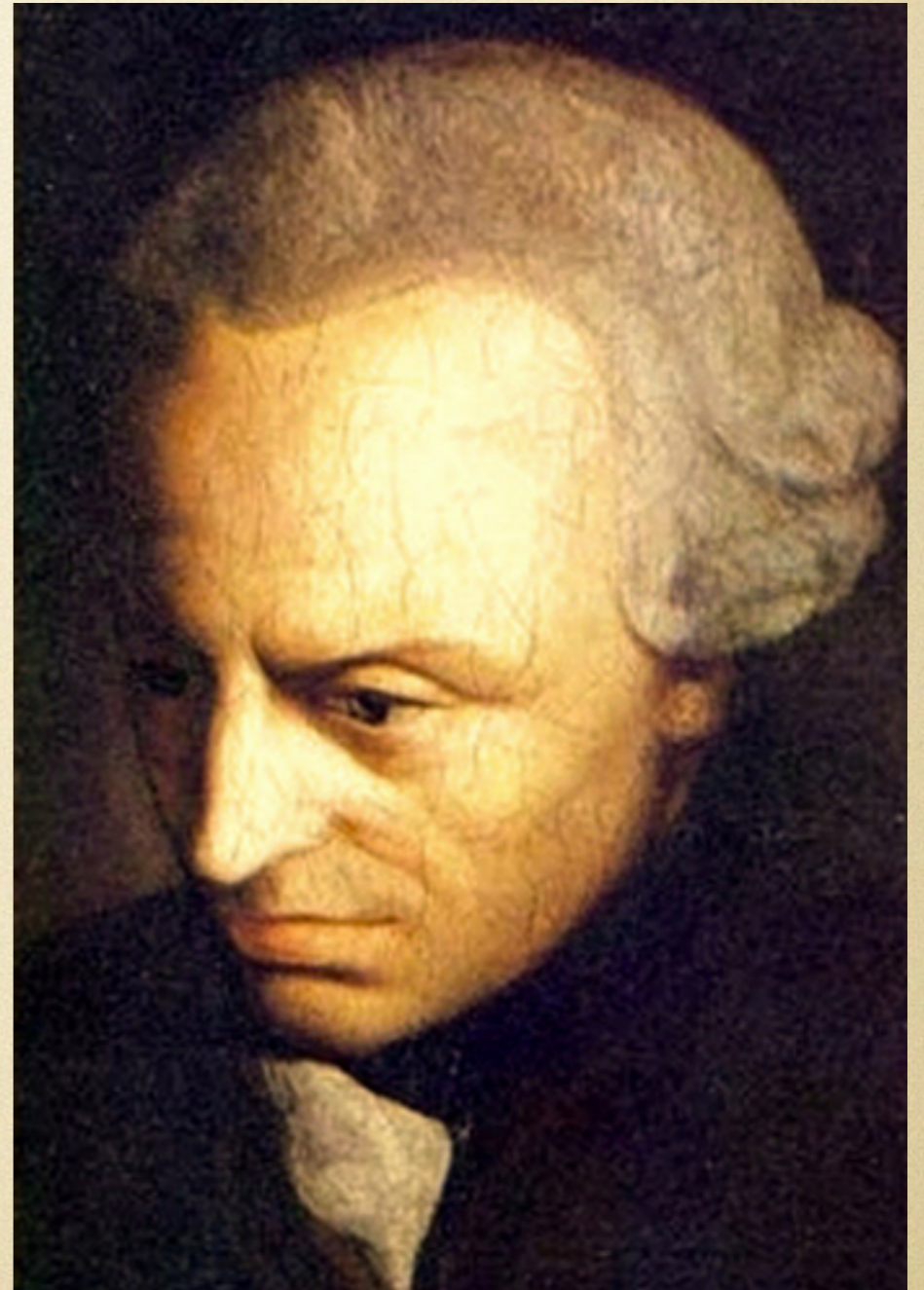- How can we possibly know what "ought" to be?

Immanuel Kant

(1724-1804)
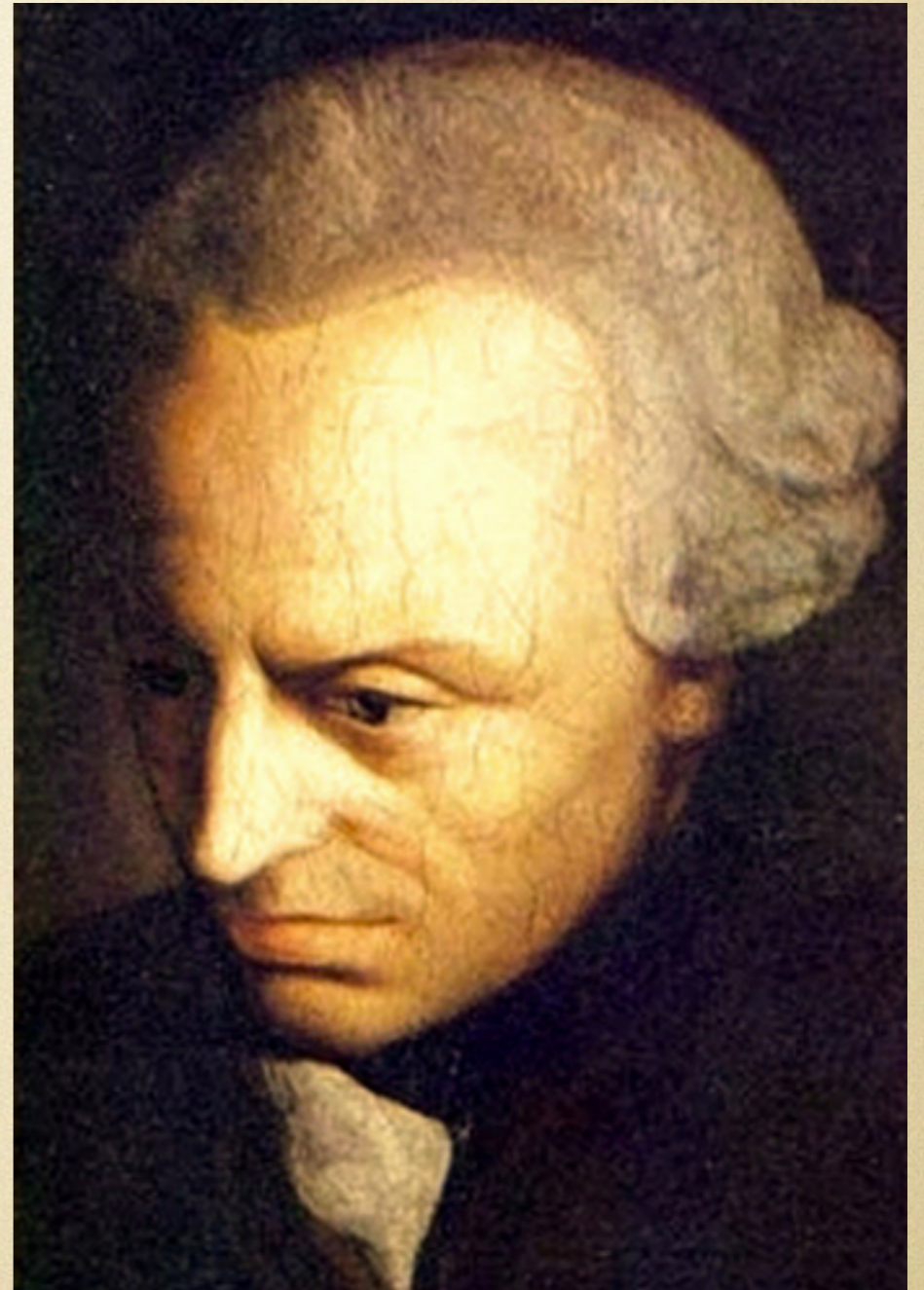
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- **Therefore God must exist and reward in an eternal afterlife**
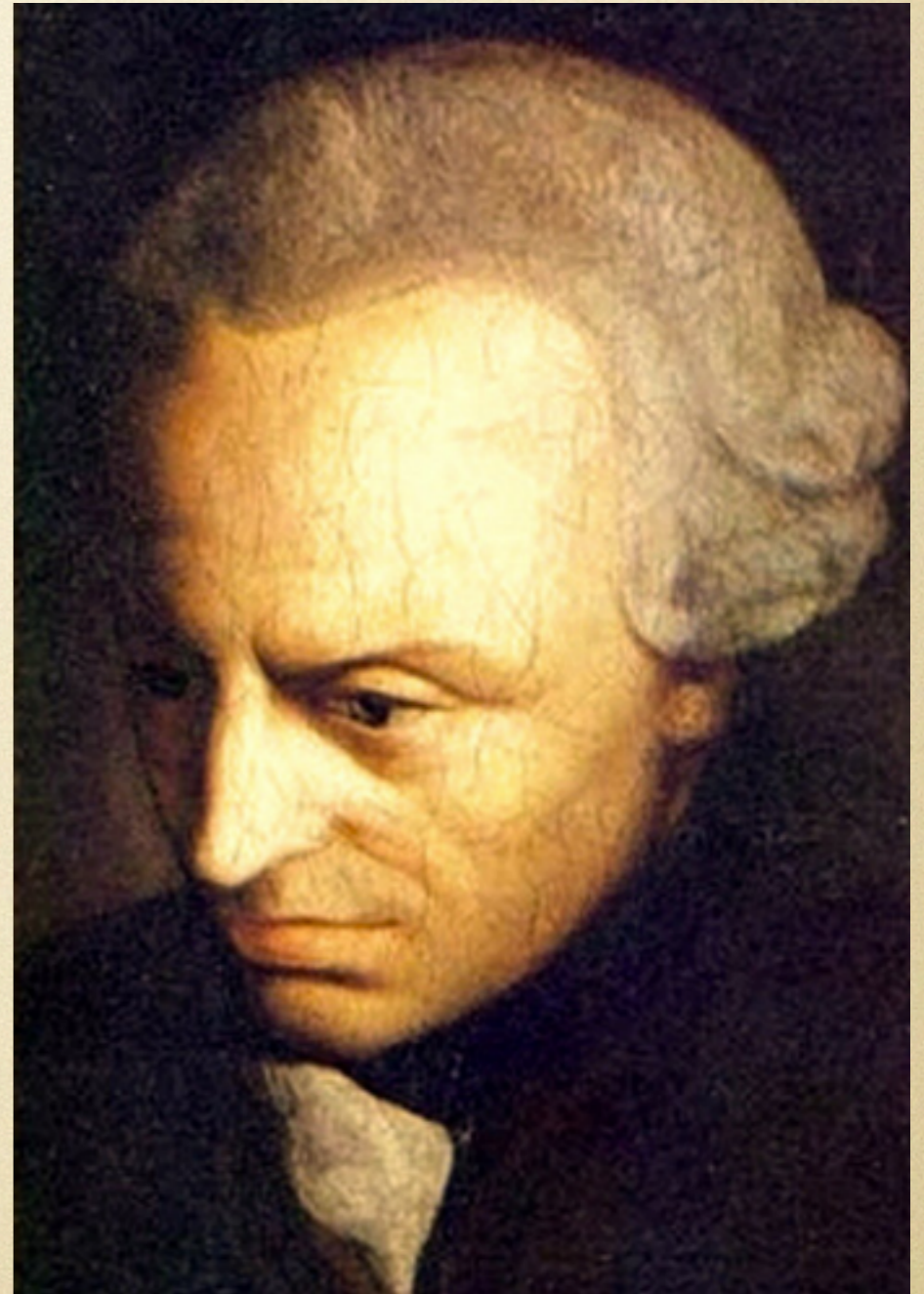
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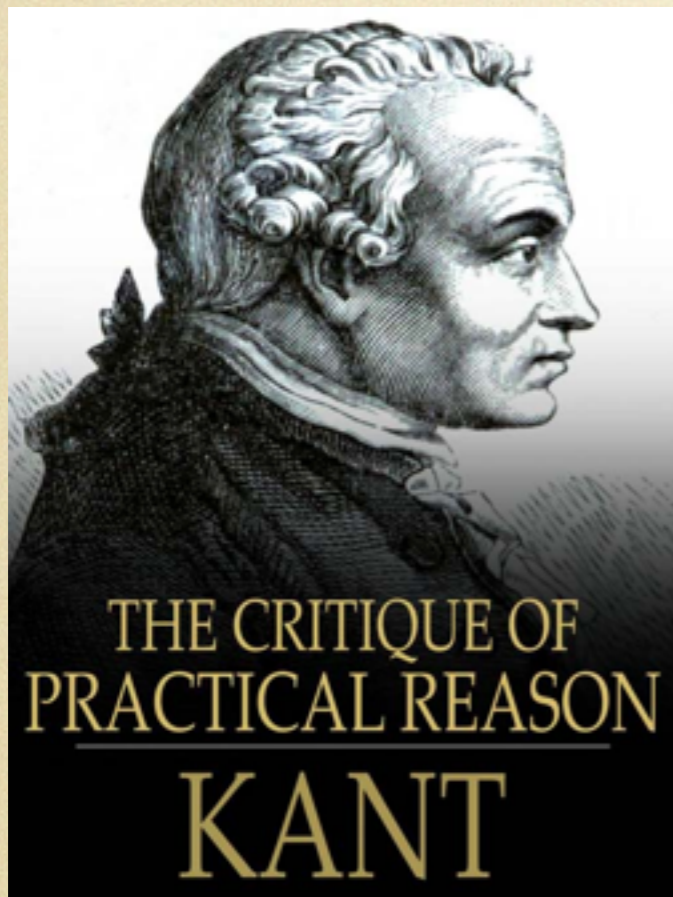
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- **Kant had always felt** that the difference between **"right" and "wrong" was a matter of reason, not sentiment.**

- **Kant believed** everybody knows what is **"right" or "wrong"** not because we've learned it. But, because it **is "born in the mind."**

Kant Got Your Tongue?

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THE CRITIQUE OF PRACTICAL REASON
KANT

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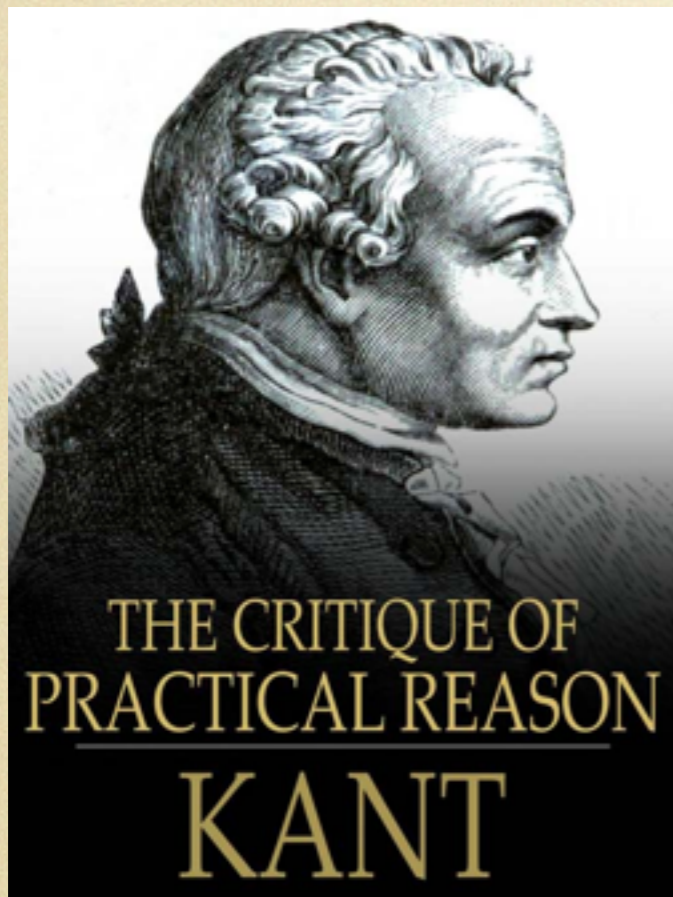
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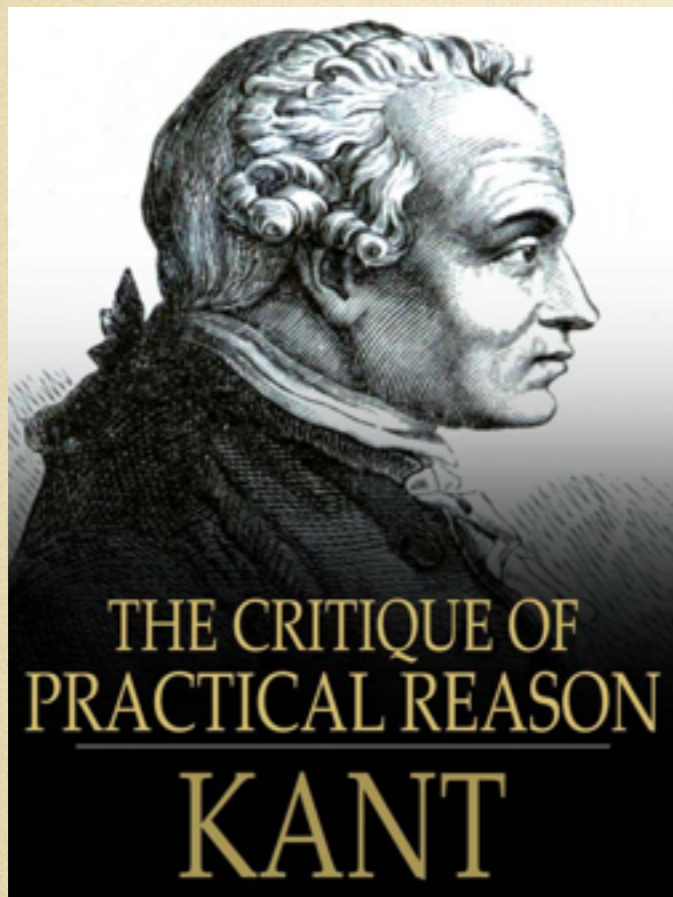
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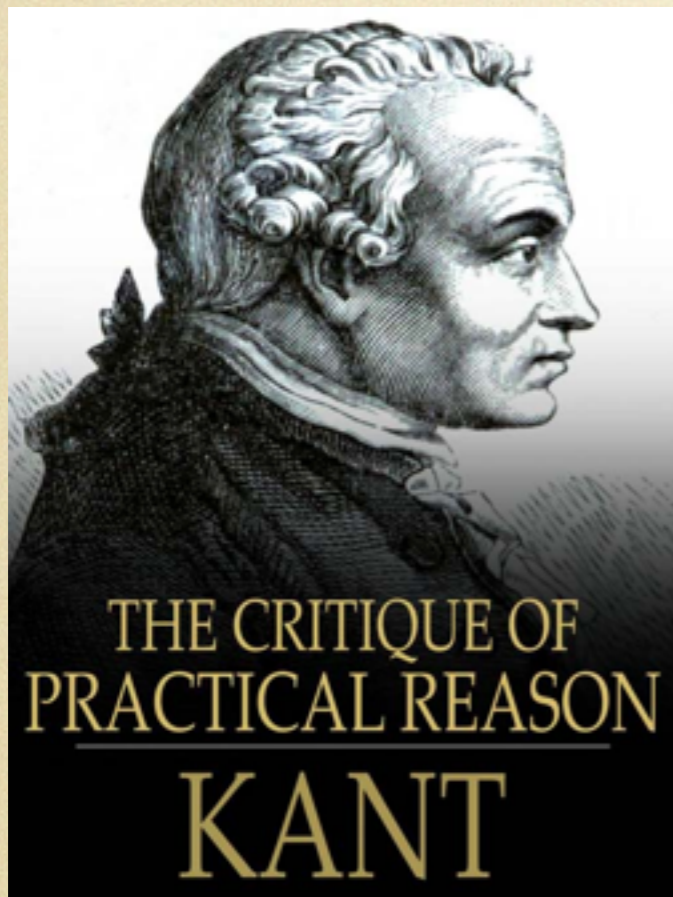
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- Just as we are all intelligent beings, for example, perceiving everything as having a causal relation, we all have access to the same "universal moral law."

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- **To treat another person only as a "means" of achieving what we want is to disregard their humanity**, to treat a person as a "thing" and to fail to show due respect for their status as a rational human being.

I Kant talk about this stuff

- For each of the following, what would KANT say about the topic. And what do YOU think about each topic?

- Pornography? Prostitution? Strippers? Abortion? Euthanasia?

- Discuss with those around you if you'd like (but you still have to write something individually!)

Curiosity killed the Kant

- According to Kant, "the law of morals" is just as absolute and just as universal as "the law of causality."

- "The law of causality" cannot be proved by reason either, but it is nevertheless absolute and unalterable.
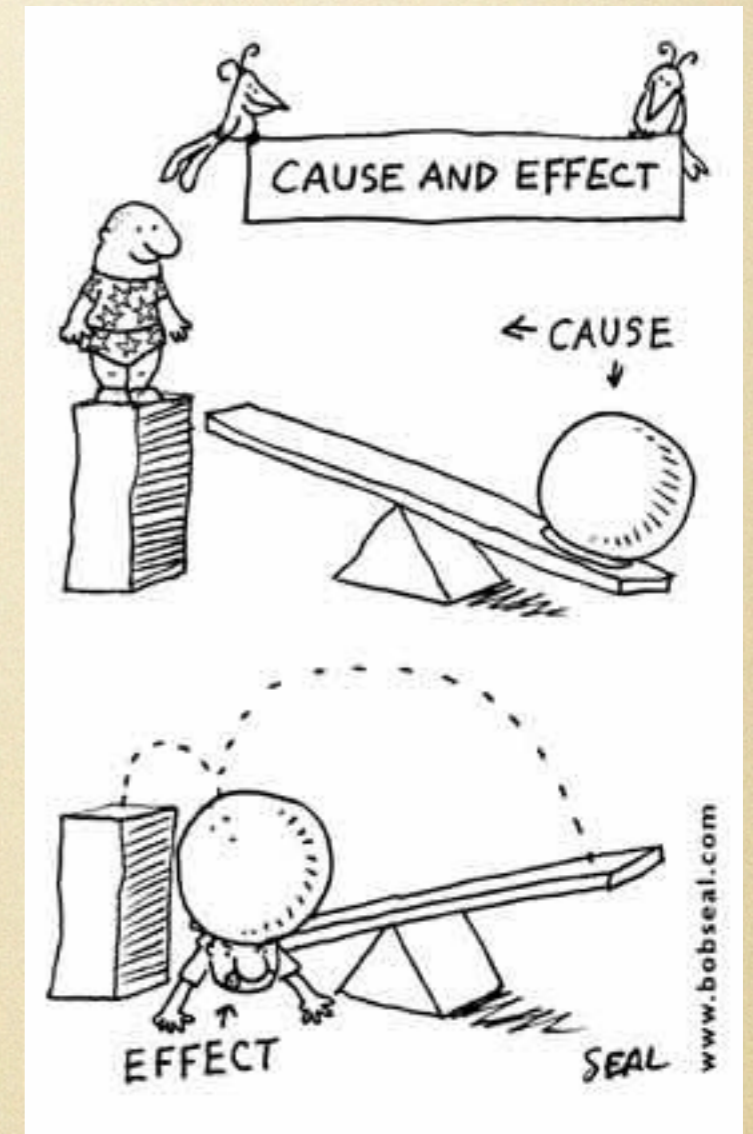
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- **Only when you do something purely "out of duty" can it be called a moral action.**

Kant explain it

- Kant's ethics is therefore sometimes called "duty ethics," or deontological ethics.

- The important thing is that you do it because you know it is right.

- If you acted of "goodwill," **the "goodwill" will determine whether or not the action was morally right, not "the consequences" of the action.**

Kant be tested

- The main question that Kant's moral theory was designed to answer is:

    - "what is the nature of morality?"

    - or, "what is a moral action as contrasted with a non-moral one?"

    - or, again, "what is the difference between a person who acts morally and one who does not?"

TO BE KANTINUED