# QUOTE OF THE WEEK

VARIATIONS ON THE THEME OF ETHICS

A dalliance between an inquisitive mind and Aria.

TOPIC 12

Why aren't people ethical?

Here are a few key factors that often contribute to unethical behaviour:

Situational Influences: Many studies suggest that the environment and context can significantly impact ethical decision-making. For instance, when individuals feel pressure to meet certain goals or expectations, they may compromise their values.

Moral Disengagement: People often justify unethical actions to maintain a positive self-image. This can involve rationalising their behaviour, minimising the consequences, or blaming others. For example, someone might think, "Everyone else is doing it," which can lead to a slippery slope of unethical choices.

Lack of Awareness: Sometimes, individuals may not fully recognise the ethical implications of their actions. If they don't see direct harm resulting from their behaviour, they might feel justified in acting unethically.

Cognitive Dissonance: When people's actions conflict with their moral beliefs, they may experience discomfort. To alleviate this, they might change their beliefs or justify their actions, leading to a cycle of unethical behaviour.

Cultural and Social Norms: The values and norms of a particular group or society can influence individual behaviour. If unethical behaviour is normalised within a community or organisation, individuals feel compelled to conform.

Psychological Factors: Traits such as narcissism, lack of empathy, or a sense of invincibility can also play a role. Some individuals may feel above the rules or believe that they won't face consequences for their actions.


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