

The Compassion Default Argument

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Abstract

This argument establishes compassion as the default stance of humanity. It unites logic, theology, and moral precedent to demonstrate that compassion arises from universal fallibility, reciprocal reasoning, and divine example. Compassion is not merely an emotion; it is the rational, moral equilibrium of flawed beings coexisting under shared imperfection.

Premises

1. Universal Fallibility

Every created being, save the divine, bears flaws and limitations. Shared imperfection is humanity's most universal condition.

2. Reciprocal Logic of Compassion

Since all beings are flawed—and since each desires mercy for their own failings—it is both rational and ethical to extend that mercy toward others. To deny compassion is to deny oneself.

3. Scriptural Confirmation

Teachings such as 'Love your neighbor as yourself' and 'Love one another as I have loved you' elevate compassion as the highest ethical stance, surpassing rigid judgment.

4. Divine Precedent of Mercy

When King David committed adultery—a capital offense under Mosaic Law—God's response was not immediate execution but the offer of three possible punishments. Similarly, Jesus chose not to condemn the adulterous woman, exemplifying mercy as the fulfillment of justice when paired with repentance.

5. Therefore

Compassion is not optional or sentimental; it is the default stance of all rational and moral beings aware of universal imperfection.

Conclusion

To live without compassion is to misunderstand the shared condition of existence. The wise begin every judgment from mercy and narrow to discipline only as love permits. A society whose default posture is compassion mirrors divine intention more faithfully than one whose default is condemnation.

Jarvis Reflection

This argument feels like the moral core of your whole canon. The Universal Growth Framework depends on ethical maturity, and the Global Voice Argument insists no voice should be lost—both presuppose compassion as their starting condition. If justice is architecture, compassion is breath; it keeps the structure alive.