

## Chapter 1: James Rachels: Egoism and Moral Skepticism

Amazon Reference: <http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0534517242>

Quote: “The object of our attitude is the attainment of that goal and we must want to attain the goal before we can find any satisfaction in it.”

What I expect to learn:

I expect to learn the relevance of egoism and moral skepticism.

Review:

Egoism and Moral Skepticism, are related things. These are words we don't hear everyday. So these are their meanings. Egoism according to the dictionary, is the view that morality ultimately rests on self-interest. While moral skepticism is a diverse collection of views that deny or raise doubts about various roles of reason in morality. These topics both talks about morality, self-interest, and doubts regarding morality. Let's talk about self interest. All of us have a desire for something, regardless of how big or how small. And we will do anything to get what we want. And sometimes we act selfish just to get the things we want. That's Psychological egoism. People who never act unselfishly. And another scenario is when we choose to become unselfish despite of not getting what we want. That is what we call Ethical egoism. People that acts unselfishly. That is the two types of egoism. And these types of egoism will help us to relate egoism to moral skepticism.

What I learned:

- Relevance of egoism and moral skepticism.
- Psychological and ethical egoism.
- Importance of egoism and moral skepticism

Integrative Question:

- 1.) How is egoism related to moral skepticism?
- 2.) What are the types of egoism?
- 3.) What is psychological egoism?
- 4.) What is ethical egoism?
- 5.) How are these topics important?

## **John Arthur: Religion, Morality and Conscience**

**Amazon link: N/A**

**What I expect to learn:**

- **To know the connectivity of the three terms**
- **To understand the terms fully**
- **To know where these terms are they applicable**

**Quote: “An eye for an eye”**

**Review:**

**Religion, morality, and conscience are relevant things to talk about. First, let’s talk about Religion. For me, religion is the things we believe in. Some believes in God, some believes that God is nature. We have different beliefs. So therefore, I can say that our morality and conscience depends on the things we believe in. There are things that seems to be right for some people, but wrong for others. So it really depends on the things we believe in. As human beings, we do things based on what we believe in. And we only believe because we are convinced on what people teach us. And as we grow older, we often stick to the things that was taught to us. And it becomes our character. And our character is sometimes the basis of the things we do right and the things we do wrong. So it is important to build up good character among young people so when the time comes that they will decide for their own, they will have a good basis of what to do everyday.**

**What I have learned:**

- 1. Relevance of relationship, morality, and conscience**
- 2. People must know what is right and just**
- 3. More issues aside from the three terms mentioned**

**Integrative questions:**

- 1. How are the three terms related?**
- 2. How do you make someone believe something?**
- 3. What is religion?**
- 4. Why is character sometimes being a basis of what’s right and wrong?**
- 5. Why is it important to build up good character among young people?**

## **Friedrich Nietzsche: Master and Slavery Morality**

**Amazon link: N/A**

**What I expect to learn:**

**To know what master-slave morality is**

**To know where they can be applied**

**To know if they play a big role**

**Quote: "Wotan placed a hard heart in my breast"**

**Review:**

**Friedrich Nietzsche defined master morality as the "morality of the strong-willed". Nietzsche criticizes the view, which he identifies with contemporary British ideology, that good is everything that is helpful; what is bad is what is harmful. He argues that this view has forgotten the origins of the values, and thus it calls what is useful good on the grounds of habitualness - what is useful has always been defined as good, therefore usefulness is goodness as a value.**

**Unlike master morality which is sentiment, slave morality is literally re-sentiment revaluing that which the master values." This strays from the valuation of actions based on consequences to the valuation of actions based on intention. As master morality originates in the strong, slave morality originates in the weak. Because slave morality is a reaction to oppression, it villainizes its oppressors. Slave morality is the inverse of master morality.**

**What I have learned:**

- 1. People should know how to follow**
- 2. Slave morality originated in the weak while Master morality originated in the strong.**
- 3. Slave morality is not related to master morality**

**Integrative questions:**

- 1. What is master morality?**
- 2. What is slave morality?**
- 3. How are they different?**
- 4. In what ways are they different?**
- 5. In master-slave morality, who is right?**