

Exploring Moral Perspectives



EGOISM

VS

ALTRUISM



AYN RAND

We act in self
interest



JS MILL

We act for the
greater good

Lincoln & the Pigs



Once upon a time, Lincoln and his Secretary of War were riding in a carriage during a muddy Spring day. Lincoln was discussing human nature and asserted that humans are driven by self interest. They came upon a small bridge and underneath the bridge Lincoln spotted a sow and her piglets drowning in the mud below. He ordered the carriage to stop, dismounted, and without regard for self he quickly sprang into action. He saved the sow and piglets and reentered the carriage covered in mud. The secretary sneered and asked the president how he could justify his selfless actions with egoism? Lincoln smiled and retorted that he could not live with himself had he not helped the pigs.

UNCONCLUDING QUESTIONS

Are there moral facts of the matter or merely
expressions of self interest?

Do societies and economies reflect our nature and
values, or, do societies and economies create us and
shape our value systems?



Professor Stuke