

Phil 101 Moral Luck

In each case, do our actual practices (what reactive attitudes we have, also how we punish / reward / behave) treat the agents differently? Are our actual practices appropriate, or should we react to the agents less differently (or more differently)? Should we react to them exactly the same way?

Case 1. Two drivers forgot to buckle a friend's child into the car seat. One of the drivers was hit by another car and their friend's child ended up severely injured.

Case 2. Agent X is caught after killing their enemy. Agent Y attempts to kill their enemy but fails. Agent Z would be glad to kill their enemy if they could do it and get away with it, but doesn't think there's ever such an opportunity.

Case 3. Sam loves their partner but once after a frustrating week of argument, went on a business trip and was drawn into a one-night stand with an alluring stranger. Sam's partner was also vulnerable to temptation after that argument, but didn't encounter it.

Case 4. Guillaume and his twin William were separated at birth and raised in different adoptive families. Guillaume's upbringing is unpleasant, he doesn't get many good chances, and he learns to scramble to survive. He ends up hustling tourists and cheating them out of their money. Sometimes stealing it outright. He sees people as potential victims. William's upbringing is nurturing and he ends up becoming a public-interest lawyer, who works hard but rewarding hours for little pay. He sees people in terms of how much they need his help.