

Life Is Not Good

Ethical Antinatalism in Haiku

Synopsis

Is your life good?

Then you are among the lucky few sentient creatures (humans are just *one* species that feels pain) happily living a life of abundant pleasure. Count your blessings. Thank your lucky stars. Please don't forget the others.

Every act that prevents a human birth, particularly an unchosen one, may save innumerable future lives from anguish and death throughout the remaining four billion years that sentient life will inhabit this planet. We tend to reproduce.

We can never know who those nulled beings might have been, but their lives would have been as real to them as yours and mine are to us today—and likely far less fortunate. They will never exist, so cannot thank us for sparing them a life of woe. Preventing lives of misery is the most generous anonymous gift we can give.

This is ethical antinatalism.

Read on. But be forewarned: Your bedrock assumptions may be shaken. Prepare to face the ethical dilemma we find ourselves in simply by being alive in an unjust world. As humans, we uniquely possess the power of moral choice, and its attendant responsibilities. What to do with that power?