

WORKING FOR WORLD PEACE

Bad Force... *Bad, Bad, Bad!*

14 Sept 10

FORCE

Is Force bad? A good deal of the History of this planet seems to involve the use of Force on others to stop their use of Force on still others. And how does Good and Bad, and Right and Wrong figure into the mix?

I just imagined World History as seen on Fast Forward. It wouldn't be much different from watching a barroom brawl in real time – Force is definitely a major player in this film clip. In the excitement and confusion, friends wind up punching out friends with as much enthusiasm as they pounce on their enemies. Once the adrenaline is used up and energies spent, those combatants who are still conscious congratulate themselves on a fight well fought. A round of drinks is bought and often those locked in mortal battle of twenty minutes ago are clapping each other on the back in friendship – until the next imagined insult sets off the next brawl. But of course, it's all in fun. And like in the movie *Fight Club*, everybody anxiously waits for next weekend's bash.

(As an aside, War and fighting in general would seem to be a guy thing. We ladies just don't have the testosterone for it. Little boys play with guns, little girls play with dolls – let's all get used to it! Now back to our regularly scheduled theme.)

But is Force, in and of itself, Bad? That would be a hard case to make, since every aspect of Life is an exercise in applying Force. Here I sit using Force to punch these innocent keys down one by one. Punch, punch, punch.... They weren't doing anything to me to give me provocation to disturb their quiescence. Nonetheless, I assumed the Right to preemptively disturb them and put them into a Motion to suit my purposes. (Some of my reviewers may be thinking that a Law against such fruitless perturbations of peaceful stillness, might not be such a bad idea.) With any Action taken, anything you *do*, you exert Force to do it. Can this be a bad thing? It would be like saying that Life itself is Bad – for every living entity stoops to the same criminal depths and goes about changing its peaceful environment to suit its own unique purposes – and through the use of *Force!* How heartlessly selfish!!!

The term *Force* contains an interesting concept, and deserves some analysis: it is an anthropomorphic bridge between the cold mechanical laws of Physics and the chaos of magic – aka Life. The most mechanical of definitions of *Force* is its Physics definition, “A vector quantity that tends to produce an acceleration of a body in the direction of its application.” Let me take this apart for you so we don't put you to sleep – a *Vector* just means something which has a specific direction. Think of a cross between an Arrow and a Freight Train. The Arrow points in one specific direction, and the Freight Train will carry whatever load in that direction. The technical definition of *Acceleration* is just the changing some thing's speed or direction. If it's sitting still and has no speed, nudging it as you walk by will give it an acceleration. If it is traveling at 10 mph and you change its speed – making it go faster or slower – you are accelerating it. When you apply the brakes in a car you are actually causing a Negative Acceleration of the car. If something is moving north, and you make it go northeast, you have accelerated it.

Wow! *I'm* starting to fall asleep! Maybe I should just have let well enough alone instead of digressing off into Physics 101 – and I still haven't made the most important point here! And that point is in the patiently waiting word, *Application*. *Application* contains the magic of Life – it implies that some creature – not some *Thing* – has made a decision to utilize its Energy to get something done. That creature may be an amoeba or a librarian – it is Life acting on Matter outside of the laws of Physics. So, to recap – *Force* is the Application by Life's Energy on Matter, which tends to move that Matter in a specific direction, and/or speed, different from that which the Matter was enjoying before Life messed things up. Without Life's mysterious interference, Matter and Energy would be happily playing in Space according to their own natural proprietary Laws. (You could almost make a pronouncement that, “All Force is Supernatural”!)

So, once again – is Force Bad? Hopefully I have swayed you to the position that perhaps at least some Force is Good, since demonstrably Life without Force would lead to Death. At this juncture, I am going to take a dangerous leap of faith, and propose that whether some activity is Good or Bad is your decision, and your decision alone. You are responsible for determining whether a particular Force is Good or Bad. I am confident that when you get up to get a drink of water, you do not first consult with the Ministry of Permitted Actions to get authorization for your preemptive environmental changes. You just get a drink because you are thirsty. (Naked Selfishness once again raising its corrupting head.) And even you who decide to picket bookstores that are selling this book – that's your decision to make. Just please recognize that *you* have made the decision, *you* are responsible, not some other agent.

GOOD AND BAD

Let's stay focused on you for a while longer. If you are thirsty and drink a glass of water, slaking your thirst, that is Good. You had a desire, and you fulfilled it – Good! But if you got to the kitchen, and the water was all rusty as it belched from the faucet – Bad! – still thirsty. It seems pretty simple so far doesn't it? Let's stick with simple. Let's say that whatever fulfills your personal desires is Good for you, and whatever impedes, or stops such fulfillment is Bad for you. All this simplicity implies that you know what you want or don't want. It also implies that if you don't have a desire about some thing, you won't have an opinion about whether it is Good or Bad. “Oh, look! The bird flew to the east this time.” Interesting perhaps, but neither Good nor Bad. The point here is that Good and Bad can be seen as very personal, individual determinations. Vanilla is Good for some, Bad for others, and for those others chocolate may be Good. Therefore Force used to get you vanilla ice cream is Good, and Force used to stop you from getting vanilla ice cream is Bad. Similarly, Force used to get you to eat chocolate is Bad, and Force used to keep chocolate away from you is Good.

RIGHT AND WRONG

Now we're ready to talk about those other folks around you – and how they figure into this Good and Bad business. Let's see what happens to Good and Bad when you have to stop at that rowdy bar to make a phone call... As you make your way to the phone, you know you don't want to get into a fight, but everyone around you is just spoiling for an excuse to start one. Are you now Wrong? Is your natural, pacific, personal opinion that not getting into a fight is Good, now Bad – just because you are outnumbered in this new environment? Or is it possibly possible that although you are in a Group which is in total disagreement with you – your personal desires are still the measure of Good and Bad, or for that matter – Right and Wrong?

Yes, and no. *Good and Bad* and *Right and Wrong* are similar concepts, but they are not synonymous. *Right and Wrong* has a different ring to it. It speaks almost entirely from the viewpoint of Society. Society (just a definable bunch of guys like you – just a Group) has determined over time that X is Good, and that Y is Bad – therefore, from the Group's point of view, X is *Right*, and Y is *Wrong*. And just as *Good and Bad* depends on who is talking, *Right and Wrong* depends on what bar or what Society you have wandered into. Group *Right and Wrong* becomes Tradition, just as an individual's concept of *Good and Bad* becomes Habit. And neither one is generally changed with the snap of the fingers. Slavery is a good example of a concept that took more than a little nudge to change from Good to Bad in individuals' minds, and Right to Wrong in Society's traditions. But it can be done. (Today, we are still struggling with the concept of War. A large percent of folks hold the personal belief that War, if not Good, is at least unavoidable; and Nations still glory in it. “Be all you can be!” and all that stuff.)

For the purposes of clarity herein, I will try to keep *Good and Bad* as a strictly Individual-determined consideration, and *Right and Wrong* as a strictly Group-determined consideration. I don't intend to mix the two, and I hope that you, my faithful reader, will attempt to make the same distinction – at least for the duration of the unfolding discussion we are having. Back to the bar... For you, not fighting is still Good, although per our more strict definitions, it is now Wrong – while you haven't changed your personal beliefs, you have changed your surroundings. You are now in a Group made up of Individuals who think very differently from you. They may appear Bad to you, but you must realize that per our differentiating and separating of these

different terms – you have no reason to label them as Wrong. If anything – you could recognize that you are! And recognize that not only do you probably appear Wrong to this Group – as Individuals, they may see you as Bad. They may use Force against you! So, make your phone call and get the hell out of there!

There is yet another step to take to be able to analyze the situation in which we Earth dwellers currently find ourselves. *Good and Bad, Right and Wrong*, are not necessarily useful concepts when working for World Peace. So let us look for terminology that is not so opinionated – either by personal taste, or by Group tradition. Just as closely defining *Force* per its strictly scientific understanding helped isolate its different connotations – the one mechanical, and the other human – we need to find some way to talk about human activities, without getting stuck in the societal straightjacket of this or that specific culture's *Right and Wrong*. It can be done!

NATURAL AND UNNATURAL

Another pair of terms we should look at is *Natural and Unnatural*. Hooray for *Natural and Unnatural*! This pair is a far more neutral way to measure the activities of Man than either *Good and Bad*, or *Right and Wrong*. (It is also much less provocative, in that it won't lead so easily to the excuse to punch someone else in the nose, or throw him in jail.) It is less judgmental, and makes for a very unbiased, more scientific way to assess Man's dominant Qualities. And just how does science go about determining man's Qualities? Easy! Those Qualities are determined by counting – by polling the Quantity in which they present themselves. It is purely determined by number. If a certain percentage of folks in any locale, do X, Y, or Z, it is Natural to that degree. If the only a tiny percentage do Q, R, or S, then those activities are Unnatural to that degree. We're just counting heads here – it doesn't matter if you are a university president, or university president's wife – whether you influence others or are influenced by them – it's just your resultant actions that are counted in this most democratic of Polls.

Here's how it works – assume that Q, R, and S are definitely Unnatural. Fine – very few folks engage in Q, R, or S, but that does not in any way mean that Q, R, and S are Wrong! Very few people die by Spontaneous Combustion, but that is not to say that they were morally deficient in doing so. Very few people return after dieing, but far from being Wrong, that is universally celebrated. Not too many jump over burning buses with their motorcycles, but Evel Knievel made a career out of it. He was never threatened with jail-time after such a jump – he just continued to crawl out of hospital after hospital in order to do it again! (Foolish or risky, is not necessarily the same as Bad or Wrong. This gets into *Victimless Crimes* – an interesting concept given our new understandings. Even Violence may be looked at as we look at Sex. If it is among consenting adults, it's none of our business. If one of the participants is a minor, is incapacitated or unwilling, only then are we looking at a Crime.)

Good and Bad stay with the individual as an origin. *Right and Wrong* bounce back on the Individual after getting mutated by the astigmatic lens of the Group. And *Natural and Unnatural*, are determinations of the statistical occurrence of whatever.

In that bar, the vast majority of the customers would say it is Good to fight; as a Group, they would all holler that it is Right to fight! And the statistician in the corner, quietly sipping his Pink Lady, would tabulate that in this bar it is Natural to fight.

It all starts with the Individual's "I want X," or "I don't want Y." That which satisfies either is Good, that which impedes either is Bad for him or her. From there, we as Individuals carry our Goods and Bads out into the world. We can't know everybody, but we do know some people – our Group. Those we know, or their parents, or grandparents, had made a tally somewhere along the line and determined that, "Most of us think that X is Good and that Y is Bad – therefore X is Right and Y is Wrong!" This is where it starts to get a little strange, because what begins as solely a Quantitative tally, bounces off the Total – the Group – and is somehow Qualitatively changed into a Moral Imperative. And guess what? If you disagree in word or deed *you* get to be Wrong! Depending on the rules of the Group that has labeled you as Wrong, you can determine the Force they may use against you for disturbing their particular brand of Peace. One Group may beat you up and throw you

out of their bar, or the Sewing Society may just suspend you for using green thread instead of red thread. (You had been repeatedly warned!)

I don't know what it is exactly about the Concept of a Group that can turn Good into Right, and Bad into Wrong – but it is a fact of life. Somehow, a Group must become some distinct Thing in the minds of the Individuals who accept those mutations of meanings; the Group seems to become some Thing – some living entity – which exists apart from any of the Individuals themselves. With the appearance of being alive, it next becomes invested with a superiority in the minds of its constituents, in that, “There is this Thing of which I am a Part. The Part cannot be greater than the Whole, so therefore, I must be less than this Thing – the Group.”

An interesting question is, at what Quantitative level does a Group become greater than the Individuals that make it up – in a Qualitative sense? Does its moral superiority grow with its size gradually? Or when the Group reaches a certain size, is it like throwing a switch – *Click!* – “Now the Group is senior to me. I knew it would happen!”? Could it be a function of the age, sex, culture, or education of the Individuals making up the Group? When I live on my desert island, am I not a 100% Sovereign Individual, personally the sole decision-maker regarding Good and Bad, a Group of one that determines Right and Wrong, and the only statistical determinant of Natural and Unnatural? Now if I go visit my friend Rick, who lives on the next island – do we make a Group? Do I loose a little of my Sovereignty to this Group? Do I lose it all? How about 3 guys? 4? 5? 50,000,000? As the Group gets bigger, do I get smaller? Curiouser, and curiouser!

RESPONSIBILITY

Tomorrow morning, before you get out of bed, I want you to do this mental exercise.... Just figure out what you want to do with the day. Make a mental list of five or ten things you plan to get done. Recognize that this is a very personal, individual set of desires. No one else was sitting in on this planning session. Now recognize that anything that happens during the day which promotes the accomplishment of those stated goals is Good. It is Good because it is in line with your desires, and that's all we are concerned with. Things which impede your goals are Bad. Simple! These are all *your* desires and goals. They may have been influenced by the stars or your parents, but in that morning's planning session, they were yours. Take Responsibility for them!

If all your neighbors, and all their neighbors have similar goals every day, then presumably your town (your local Group) will assert that these goals are Right. At your town meetings, you will probably have passed laws supporting what you consider is Right, and suppressing as Wrong those activities which impede the attainment of what all agree is Right. **But it is vital for World Peace that you not lose sight of the fact that you have the Responsibility, along with your fellows, for these pronouncements of Right and Wrong. They are not any more solid or enduring than your continued decisions, morning by morning, that these things are Good and those things are Bad. And they do not necessarily reach beyond your little town – or your nation.**

THE END IS NEAR

And so what about Force? There is an old saying that you don't need to beat a willing horse. Suffice it to say, that it is a bad idea for your Group to write laws forcing you to do what you do Naturally. If it is generally considered Good by the members of the Group, and therefore considered Right by the Group – it is unnecessary to use Force to get folks to do it. But if you do continually use Force on that once willing horse, at the very least it will no longer look forward to your morning trot. And over time, it will probably dread the sight of you approaching the barn, and buck as you try to saddle up. Enforced Freedom takes on the taste of Slavery. I have observed that when a Group enforces some desired activity which its members do naturally, it generally ends up with less of that activity. Charity is an excellent example. Enforced Charity takes on the taste of Thievery. Curbing what is Bad, Wrong and Unnatural is more to the point. But don't pretend to know what is Natural for the bar, town, or nation over the horizon. They will not appreciate your imposing Force on them to make them act like you. You and yours are Responsible for yourselves; let your neighbors be Responsible for themselves.

STILL WANT WORLD PEACE?

- Be Responsible for yourself – recognize that you are the sole measure of Good and Bad.
- Associate with whomever you like, and as a Group determine what is Right and Wrong regarding your mutual goals, but never lose sight of the origin of that Right and Wrong.
- Never lose sight of the fact that no Group is superior to the folks who are its co-creators.
- Keeping in mind what is Natural, don't try to use Force to make folks be Right – just use Force to stop any members of your Group from disturbing the peace of the rest.
- And don't even consider using Force on another Individual or other Groups, unless they use Force against you or your Group. (Preemptive Strikes are definitely frowned upon.)