

## VIRTUE & SIN

"Virtue is that which favors the progressive evolution of the species and of life in general, sin whatever promotes its regressive evolution. Virtue affirms life, sin denies it" (A. Bunge 1915 p. 130).

DEFINITION An action is virtuous iff it is morally right, i.e.

(i) it benefits others;

(ii) it does not hurt <sup>innocents</sup> ~~others~~ except possibly the agent himself; and

(iii) it is not a duty.

DEFINITION An action is sinful iff it is morally wrong, i.e.

(i) it benefits nobody but the agent;

(ii) it ~~harm~~ ~~others~~ <sup>harm</sup> ~~innocents~~.



COROLLARY 1 Doing one's duty is not virtuous even if it involves sacrifice  
(because duty is the price of rights).

COROLLARY 2 Hurting on<sup>e</sup>self is not sinful; ~~it may be simply stupid or pathological.~~

COROLLARY 3 Suicide is not sinful unless it deprives dependents of their means  
of livelihood.