EGOISM & ALTRUISM

Egoism: Behavior carried out to benefit the self.

Altruism: Behavior carried out to benefit another.

Empathy certaintly helps altruism but, pace Aronfred (1980), it is not necessary for it: indeed, one may carry out altruistic actions out of a sense of duty without feeling with the victim, though of course understanding rationally his need for help.

Aronfred, J. (1980) Conduct and Conscience . New York: Academic Press.

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