

Quotations on Morality - Postliterate - Medium

By Postliterate

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“The moment anyone started to talk to Marx about morality, he would roar with laughter.”

— Karl Vörländer

“All moral codes are the inventions of human beings who want what they believe to be ‘right’ to be accepted by all to whom the code is meant to apply. An individual, or group of individuals, wants to promote his or their interests and preferences... If I am frank about this, I might get the support of those whose interest coincides with mine, but that is all. If, on the other hand, I claim that I am speaking in the name of God, or Humanity, or in the interest of the Nation, then my claim becomes much more impressive.”

— Sidney E. Parker, *The Myth of Morality*

“...there is certainly plenty to laugh about when our rulers talk about morality. Almost invariably they use it as a way of promoting their own interests, pretending they are acting for the common good or for the benefit of humanity.”

— Phil Gasper, *Marxism, morality, and human nature*

“Marx saw that what is of cardinal importance is not the personal behaviour of the individual but the struggle between social forces, not personal morality but the fight to establish the good society. And in that

struggle, the language of moralism was all too often the language used by the ruling class in order to constrain those who opposed it....”

— Chris Harman, *Where’s the moral?*

“We maintain ... that all moral theories have been hitherto the product, in the last analysis, of the economic conditions of society obtaining at the time. And as society has hitherto moved in class antagonisms, morality has always been class morality; it has either justified the domination and the interests of the ruling class, or ever since the oppressed class became powerful enough, it has represented its indignation against this domination and the future interests of the oppressed.

That in this process there has on the whole been progress in morality, as in all other branches of human knowledge, no one will doubt. But we have not yet passed beyond class morality. A really human morality which stands above class antagonisms and above any recollection of them becomes possible only at a stage of society which has not only overcome class antagonisms but has even forgotten them in practical life.”

— Frederick Engels, *Anti-Dühring*

“Anarchists who wish to demolish the authority of the state and of capital but want to leave the authority of fixed ideas like morality, humanity, rights, or altruism intact only go halfway. For the egoist, these spooks can be even more vicious than the more visible forms of authority.”

— Matty Thomas, *The Relevance of Max Stirner to Anarcho-Communists*

“It is clear that ethics cannot be expressed.”

— Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*

“...internalized and desensualized into a thought, a conception, now ranks as the ‘sacred,’ whose despotism is tenfold more grievous because it makes a racket in my conscience.”

— Max Stirner, *The Ego and Its Own*

“The ancients said: ‘The wise man carries his law within him.’ This is all of anarchy in one word. But it’ll be said: ‘Sure, but are all men wise?’ This would be misunderstanding the question, for no one has the measuring-stick to size up wisdom. The true wisdom for all would be for everyone to be himself.”

— Émile Pouget, *Revolutionary Bread*

“Hardly any political purge, religious war, or ethnic cleansing was not justified, embellished, or inspired by great moral values: justice, righteousness, freedom, liberty, equality, human rights — you name it.”

— Hans-Georg Moeller, *The Moral Fool: A Case for Amoralism*

“There is no Good, there is no Bad: these be the whims of mortal will; What works me well: that I call Good; what harms and hurts I hold as Ill; They change with place, they shift with race; and, in the veriest space of Time; Each Vice has worn a Virtue’s crown; all Good was banned as Sin and Crime.”

— Hajdi Abdu El-Yezdi