

What is Good?

by Craig Paardekooper

Good is an evaluation. We call one outcome better than another when it more closely approximates a goal or a purpose. But does purpose exist in nature?

You may be surprised to learn that Purpose is everywhere, and defines every structure and process of life.

Your eyes *are for* seeing.

Your ears *are for* hearing.

Your mouth *is for* eating.

Your feet *are for* walking.

Your heart *is for* pumping.

Every part of you is for a specific purpose. Purpose is everywhere, in every cell, every structure, every process.

It is the intention for which things were made,
The ends that make them complete,
Their Fulfillment, their Good, and their deepest Happiness.

This is the foundation of Value,
Because it is how each thing is meant to function, what it is meant to be, what it is meant to become

A simple law expresses this truth:

Treat every creature in a way that allows its nature to be fulfilled

To act otherwise is to cause harm, broken function, disease, and death
Felt as physical pain, emotional suffering, and the violation of meaning itself.

This is the oldest law, seen through Adam's eyes,
Written into the fabric of nature when the world was young.

A purpose that whispers to us, an intention that calls us,

To do no harm, to cause no unnecessary suffering, and to honor the ends of living things in their joyful fulfillment.

<https://howbad.info/god-directedness.pdf>