

Three great advances in human cognitive/psychological evolution

3. Greater relational perspective: Taking the role of the other

With the development of human intelligence, many cultures (among them Confucian, Buddhist, Greek, Christian, and Islamic) have expressed what is known as the ethic of reciprocity:

“Treat others as you would have them treat you”

or, in the negative,

“Don't do to others what you wouldn't want done to yourself”

This greater relational perspective arises in part from the greater temporal perspective in Part 2: a being that can envision the future actions of others can envision others' responses to that being's behavior.

“Never impose on others what you would not choose for yourself.”

Confucius *Analects XV.24* (b. 551– d.479 BC)

“Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.”

Gautama Buddha *Udanavarga 5:18* (~Fifth Century B.C.)

“Do not do to others that which angers you when they do it to you.”

Isocrates *Nicocles or the Cyprians 3.61* (b.436– d. 338 BC)

“Do to others what you would want them to do to you.”

Jesus Christ (*Matthew 7:12, Luke 6:31*) (~30 AD)

*“As you would have people do to you, do to them;
and what you dislike to be done to you, don't do to them.”*

The Prophet Mohammed *Kitab al-Kafi* (~625 AD)