

Moral Reflection with AI-Necessary or Redundant?

The Rape of Pasiphae



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The proponents of moral support with AI claim that some of the more problematic behavioural patterns of humans can be resolved with the help of AI.

They argue for moral enhancement with an AI system which can help us manage our biases better, by informing us of them and helping us overcome them.

I disagree with the solution being offered because I don't see this as a problem which can be solved at an individual level.

Firstly, it is not entirely clear why being influenced more by our immediate surroundings can give rise to 'immoral' action.

Secondly, our moral responses don't occur in a vacuum, they occur in a very specific socio-political-economic scenario.

Hence, we need to reflect more on what we are trying to fix and ask if our problems can really be fixed with gentle guidance and nudging from an AI system in the complex socio-political structure we exist in.

To illustrate the second problem, I use the example of Pasiphae from Greek Mythology, who was cursed by Poseidon to develop feelings for a bull. Pasiphae under the influence of the curse was overcome with lust for the bull and sought the help of Daedalus to satisfy her lust. Daedalus built a mechanical cow contraption to aid her. Could AI have convinced her of otherwise?

