

Natural Law is thus immutable as we know the conclusion of a geometrical theorem to always be. It is absolutely immutable no less in each particular application of it than in its most general principles. What is right and reasonable to-day cannot be otherwise to-morrow. Even were God, were it possible, to remove his prohibition on pride, lying and other such forbiddings of the Natural Law, man would still feel the intrinsic exigency or intolerableness within him, and his nature would ever cry out against these acts, telling him not to be proud and not to lie.

And lastly, I might say a word on the sanction of Natural Law, which is simply the reward for those who obey it and the punishment for breaking it. There is no law without a sanction, for that legislator is only earnest in his command who attaches a reward and punishment to his law. And because here we speak of the sanction of Natural Law, that sanction must be the natural outcome of the exigency of human nature. Since, then, God is the legislator of Natural Law, the sanction which is attached to it is divine. This we may say is twofold, the one pertains to this life and the other to the life to come. As regards the first, the temporal rewards, we have peace of mind, health and happiness as opposed to the temporal punishment following from a hideous, corrupted and overthrown nature. And for the future reward we have an eternity of happiness in the enjoyment of the possession of God as opposed to the future punishment, which is an eternity of suffering as the result of being separated from God, our ultimate end.

Since then, we are obliged in conscience to follow the dictate of our natural reason, the operations which we perform will bring us good or evil accordingly as they agree or disagree with the fixed standard. "Act against nature, and you will end by ruining your nature and fail of your final perfection and happiness."

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