

Origins of Human Morality

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Humans started becoming moral as soon as they started thinking in terms of 'we'. Underlying this new sense of plural agency were skills and motivations for shared intentionality, which emerged as early humans were forced into ever more cooperative lifeways in which they were repeatedly faced with problems such as how 'we' should forage for food and how 'we' should distribute the food at the end. Individuals who functioned well in these settings were those who could make and keep joint and collective commitments with others based on a genuine sense that all individuals, including the self, were of equal value to the collaborative enterprise. Self-regulation of these collaborative activities led to human normative thoughts and attitudes about what we should or ought to do.