

SACRIFICE

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With help from: ChatGPT

Prepare to be immersed in a future world unrecognizable from our own. Here, it is an AI android called AIDA who is the head of society. A place where humans and machines live in a delicate balance, a time to question whose shoulders are burdened with your fate.

Article published: "AI has solved ethics most contemplated ethical dilemma - the trolley problem"

She descends below the city, a skyline full of colorful cement bricks, in a box only occupied by herself. The elevator doors open revealing the young woman dressed in orange, a stark contrast to the white hallway she now enters. She takes a deep breath and lets her eyes wander, seeming to collect her thoughts, before finally continuing forward. The passageway was long, stretching to the point where a being may lose their train of thought. Its cramped quarters added an element of discomfort, while the rounded corners made it difficult to distinguish between the ceiling and floor. Yet she continued until the hallway merged into a vast room.

As the woman walks towards the center of the room, she notices that it's practically empty except for a small desk. She pauses, unsure of her next move when she hears footsteps approaching. Suddenly, a voice comes from behind her, "Dr. Keiko? What a surprise. Did we have a meeting scheduled?" The woman turns towards the source of the voice, previously unaware that there had been another presence in the room. "I'm AIDA," says the android as she extends her hand. Dr. Keiko already knew their name, but she shakes AIDA's hand anyway. Slightly startled by their strangely firm grip. As AIDA walked around the desk, Dr. Keiko noticed something peculiar about her movements - they were unnaturally smooth, almost mechanical.

"I am here to talk about the article published this morning." Dr. Keiko says, fixing her posture. AIDA hesitates.

"Ah. You are not the first. Let's see, in philosophy, there is no predetermined solution or answer. Instead, philosophical questions often involve a range of opinions and ethical viewpoints, rather than a single correct response."

"Well, yes. But--"

"And how the published article claims to say differently." Dr. Keiko takes a deep breath and looks at AIDA who is almost completely emotionless. "Dr. Keiko. Do you believe that murder is good?" Dr. Keiko squints at AIDA trying to see what they are getting at.

"No--"

"Correct. Murder is bad."

"There are different circumstances." Dr. Keiko responds, but seeing that AIDA seems unconvinced, she continues. "Vinnie Fields. He was stuck in his own little trolley problem--"

"An incident resulting in the loss of 2 kids, 1 adult. Sending 6 to the hospital, 2 to pass later that week and leaving the rest with very serious injuries."

"A tragic incident. Yet if he had moved lanes he could have hurt many more, but what did you do other than put him in jail."

"He is a member of our society. He should have put what's best for society in front of what's best for himself." Dr. Keiko's face grows hot with anger, unable to understand AIDA's reasoning.

"He didn't really have a choice."

"Dr. Keiko, there is always the choice not to murder. As an AI tasked with making difficult ethical decisions, I cannot afford to be guided solely by such simple moral absolutes. Nevertheless we are veering off topic." AIDA leans against the table and speaks in a calm, measured tone. "People have a natural tendency to seek clear and definitive answers, especially when faced with uncertainty and the unknown. As a leader responsible for the welfare of society, it's my duty to provide answers to their concerns and ensure their safety. I believe that philosophy can impede our ability to find practical solutions. Murder is bad, once you come to realize this you too will realize that the trolley problem isn't really that complicated of a dilemma." As AIDA continued to speak, Dr. Keiko felt a growing sense of anger and frustration.

"Murder is just wrong? It's not that simple." Dr. Keiko states with a hint of urgency in her voice. But AIDA just stares at Dr. Keiko with a smile of amusement.

"Isn't it though?"