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Nine theses on the foundation of ethics

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**Nine theses
on the foundation of ethics**

Lennart Nörreklit

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Lennart Nörreklit

1. Ethics is not based on our feelings, since it may demand us to act against our feelings.
2. Ethics is not based on culture, tradition, habits: Ethos and morals are not ethics. We try and should try to create a morality rooted in our ethics.
3. Ethics is not based on calculation of consequences. On the contrary, calculation of consequences presupposes tradition, ethos, morality without which human behavior generally becomes unpredictable. And: This morality should be rooted in ethics.
4. Ethics is based on reason: The concept of goodness calls for reasons through the question: “why?” – “why is it good?” The answer is a reason.
5. The unconditional command of ethics is that we must create and sustain a caring, loving and loveable world, because only love provides the credible reason to live and be in the world
6. We must create our self-identity by identifying with those people, activities and places, which we love – otherwise we become self-negating and destructive.
7. The reward of being true to our loving approach to life is happiness. It is a condition of happiness. (Not pleasure.)

8. Ethics is founded in the impetus, the inborn tendency of meaning and being togetherness (i.e. of consciousness), which aims at realizing life as a love-project. This means, that it is founded in love, in the ability to sustain and be in a lovable, loving world – it is founded in our reason to live
9. Thus ethics is founded in the impetus that creates duration and life in the form of value. A value is that which demands an open time horizon. The form of a value synthesizes duration and infinity (change) in identity.