

Thomas Jefferson's Religious Beliefs

Post by “Matt” of February 2, 2022 at 2:18 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

I agree with that, but with the critical caveat that the issue would not turn so much on "civilization" but on those who are our family and "friends" (which would be an interesting issue to tackle as to who fits that). In other words there are people whose existence are critical to us, and people who we have essentially no relationship to, so it would be important to make that distinction. But in the sense of "the world of living human beings" for example if the entire earth were being destroyed by a meteor there wouldn't be much to argue about

This is such an interesting idea. For me, my family's preservation would be my only concern in the event of some catastrophe. My only real need to survive would be so that I am present to be able to defend and provide for them.

A friend of mine said recently that when he was a Marine overseas, he would've been willing to die for his fellows without question, but now with his kids, he has so much more of a reason to live. So a biological imperative could theoretically change a person's perspective. Willing to die for friends one day, unwilling to risk death if it means your absence is a net negative for your family the next day.

I too follow his principle in that I'm linked to my kids preservation, therefore if I die I won't be present for them to continue my fatherly duties, but I would die for them if no options presented themselves. But I won't be performing any uncalculated heroic acts of bravery for strangers, for my children's sake.

Nature and biology have entirely rewired my brain. If you asked me about virtuous acts of bravery for random people years ago, I might've given my Marine friend's earlier answer, but things have changed.