James Rachels: Egoism and Moral Scepticism

What I expect to lean: What is egoism, how does it affect our lives, and how does an action become selfish or unselfish.

Quote: “If we describe one person’s action as selfish, and another person’s actions as unselfish, we are overlooking the crucial fact that in both cases, assuming that the action is voluntarily, the agent is merely doing what he most wants to do”.

I guess the real topic on this story is what egoism really is and how it affects us. Egoism explains that “No one is commonly believed, would have such iron strength of mind to stand fast in doing right and keep his hands off other mends goods, when he could go to the market-place and fearlessly help himself to anything he wanted, enter houses and sleep with any woman he chose, set prisoners free ad kill men at his pleasure, and in a word go about among men with the powers of a god”. It shows that people will only do actions that benefit themselves. Egoism is when we do what we think would be most advantageous for our position. Being moral does not play a role since morals at times disadvantageous. This affects our lives when we think of how we go about our day. This is when we take time to think why or for what reason we should do something.

What I have learned:

* Not every act is selfish
* There are people who prioritize others before themselves
* People need other people to survive