

AI-Generated Sketch of the Week

February 3, 2023

(The AI is out of order this week. This one was written by Tomi Francis.)

*The Scene: it is just past midnight. Danish Philosopher Andreas Mogensen is working on a new paper in a dark room. The window is open. As he leans back, suppressing a yawn, he sees a dark shadow dart through the window. Further shadows continue to stream through the window, accumulating in the corner of the room. His attention now focused, Mogensen discovers that these shadows are in the shape of bats. The bats continue to stream into the corner, pooling together into the form of a human... or something more malevolent. His metamorphosis complete, **Jeremy Bentham** steps out of the shadows.*

MOGENSEN: Bentham! But you've been dead for centuries!

BENTHAM: Ah, Andreas. I've been asleep for some time. I ordered my body to be preserved for a reason. Now I am back, to complete my Utilitarian project!

MOGENSEN: And what do you want from me?

BENTHAM: I need your aid Mogensen. You can give it freely, or I can take it by force. I need you to find me ten thousand innocent people. By drinking their blood, I can survive into the far future, and ensure the greatest happiness for the greatest number. The greater good must be served!

MOGENSEN: Ensuring the greatest happiness for the greatest number is a noble goal. But drinking the blood of the innocent is a heinous crime. People have rights, you know. I won't let you do it!

BENTHAM: You fool! Your feeble "rights" and "side constraints" are no match for my Utilitarian philosophy! The stakes are too high for us to be held back by foolish sentimentalism. Innocents may die, but they will live on in me and in my contributions to improving the long term future of humanity.

MOGENSEN: You're not human any more, Bentham. You're a monster! You don't belong in this world!

BENTHAM: Wow. I never took you for a speciesist. You're right, I'm not human any more, I'm a vampire. But I'm still a person. And it's not me that matters, anyway. It's the future. Even you can't ignore stakes like these!

MOGENSEN: There's no way I can let you kill innocent people. You're right, the stakes are high. I can't deny them. However, sometimes you need to fight stakes...

Mogensen brings one of his hands behind his back.

MOGENSEN: With stakes.

Mogensen brings out a wooden stake. Gripping it firmly with both hands, he plunges it into Bentham's heart. Blood pools from the vampire's mouth.

BENTHAM (SCREECHING): Mortal fool! What have you done?! You'll regret this! Think of the expected value! The greatest happiness for the greatest[...]

Bentham gives one last gurgle and dies before finishing his sentence. His body begins to melt away, like a bad dream.

MOGENSEN: A Utilitarian, and a vampire. Looks like he was...

Mogensen puts on a pair of sunglasses.

MOGENSEN: Sensitive to stakes.