

# **Egoism and Contractarianism**

# Psychological Egoism

- Could (and if so, *how* could) each of the following turn out to be self-interested actions?
  - a parent who sacrifices his needs for his child
  - anonymous living non-related organ donation
  - a janitor who leaves his fortune to the school he served
  - a company that makes a donation to a charity, or advertises how environmentally conscious it is
  - a soldier jumping on a grenade to save others around him

# Ethical egoism

## 1. Ought implies can argument

P1	We cannot be morally required to do something we are unable to do
P2	We are unable to act in ways that do not appear to increase our own personal well-being
C	Therefore, we cannot be morally required to act in ways that do not appear to increase our own personal well-being.

# Ethical egoism

## 2. The practical reasons argument

P1	We are morally required to do actions we have good reasons to do
P2	The only actions we have good reasons to do are those that are in our own selfish interests
C	Therefore, we are morally required to do only those actions that are in our own selfish interests