

It is common to suppose that the world is one of a realm of possible worlds. Some have thought it the best of all possible worlds, others the worst of all possible worlds, while most have probably felt it lay between these extremes.

Suppose ^{there is} such a valuation of all possible worlds. How is any knowledge of it possible? What would such knowledge involve? It is easier to see what it would not involve. It would be independent of any purely logical properties of the universe, as they are as empty as they are certain. It would be independent of whatever might happen to be in the universe, as the valuation of all possible universes must be independent of whether any universe happens to be the case. It must be independent of our valuation, as they are constantly in the world. This such knowledge is possible

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neither a priori or a posteriori. This knowledge of a valuation of all possible worlds (if their case) is impossible.

What then have people meant when they compared the world to other possible worlds? They usually mean the world would be better if there had been no disease or it would be better if the communists were exterminated, etc. Such judgements seem to affirm two things (i) a certain change in the world is possible. (This is not however to say a change of worlds) (ii) this change is desirable.