

Lets talk about lying Truth and lies matter We often behave in ways that are guaranteed to make us unhappy and if you lie deceive or mislead you are on a sure fire path to misery In the full spirit of honesty my thoughts here are influenced by an essay of Sam Harris and an article in Psychology Today

Everyone in the Fourth and above has studied the ideas of the philosopher Immanuel Kant in RS lessons Kant wrote in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century he wanted to create a sort of science of ethics in the same way that the world was then being understood in a new way by scientists and physicists Using reason alone he employed a method called the Categorical Imperative to determine if an action is right or wrong This is not the time to go into the details of the process but Kant showed to at least his own satisfaction that lying is always in every case absolutely wrong He even gave the example of an axe murderer visiting your house hoping to kill your friend Kant says that you cannot lie about the whereabouts of your friend even to a would be murderer

I don't think I have ever met a pupil who was persuaded by Kant but this morning I'm going to make that case that he is actually right about lying

Since I am

Given the choice between a life of limitless pleasure as a brain in a vat and a genuine human life along with all its pain and suffering, most people opt for the

fomenting social unrest, undermining institutions, and diverting political capital away from health, education, and good government.

There is a great quotation from C S Lewis on friendship Friendship is born at the moment when one man says to another What You too I thought that no one but myself The opportunity for this deep truthful mutual understanding is lost when we lie

What might happen if you never told another lie Would you be a better or worse person Would your relationships be stronger or weaker According to John the Apostle, Jesus once said And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free

Go on, set yourself free.