

Real World Graduation: Question 45: Allocation of Blame

Edward D. Duvall
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Question 45

A wife had to go to a Garden Club meeting. She told her husband to stay home while she was out, and asked him to watch Channel 6 and get the winning lottery numbers. Also, she did not like the friends he was likely to hang out with (especially Bob). The husband was resentful of the way his wife had ordered him around. While his wife was gone, the husband noticed that they were out of beer, so he decided to violate his wife's wishes. He left the house to go and buy some beer. On the way, his truck ran out of gas. So he called his friend Bob, who met him where the truck was, and brought him a few gallons of gas. Bob went back home, and the husband continued onto the store. As he was going into the store, a mugger tried to hold him up. The husband refused to give the mugger his beer money, so the mugger shot and killed the husband. Who is to blame for the death of the husband?

- a) The wife, for not treating the husband with respect, which provoked him into leaving the house. If he had stayed home, he would be alive now.
- b) The husband, for leaving the house when his wife specifically told him to stay home.
- c) Bob is at fault because he provided the gas that enabled the husband to get to the store where he was killed.
- d) The husband, because he refused to obey the mugger.
- e) Everyone in the story shares some of the blame except for the wife.

Answer to Question 45

This is a trick question. All of the answers are wrong.

Answer a) is wrong because although it is true that he would still be alive if he stayed home, that has nothing to do with how his wife treats him.

Answer b) is wrong because the husband is a big boy now and can decide for himself whether to leave the house or not. He did not sign up for slavery during the wedding ceremony.

Answer c) is wrong because Bob's assistance is irrelevant to whether the wife likes him or not, and is irrelevant to whether the husband went to the store or not; the husband was going there anyway.

Answer d) is wrong because no one is legally required to obey the orders of a criminal, although there are many politicians, bureaucrats, and police chiefs who would have you believe otherwise. In fact, there are some officeholders who are so stupid that they would try to put the blame on the storekeeper, the beer makers, the gas refiners, and the gun makers, pretending that somehow they influenced the outcome of this event. These idiots manage to get their names on every ballot.

Answer e) is wrong because in a free society, everyone is responsible for their actions. In this case, all the blame falls on the mugger, as he is the only one who did anything wrong. All the other people in the story did nothing to contribute to the crime.

All the proposed answers are simple attempts to shift responsibility for the criminal's actions away from the criminal. They are consistent with the notion that crime occurs because "it's all society's fault" that some people are induced to commit crimes. Everyone is responsible for their own actions. In this case, the only person to blame for the death of the husband is the person who did it, namely the mugger. No one else has any responsibility for it, at least not in a free society.

Don't be fooled by the false Socialist notion that "it takes a village". That concept is based on the notion of "collective security", "collective culture", and "collective guilt". In that version of history, everyone in sight is partly at fault for every crime; thus reducing the culpability of the one criminal actor. The group mentality seek to reduce individual responsibility, and in doing so, eliminate individual freedom and initiative. Those who advocate the Socialist "one village" mentality are really intent on one thing: to your individual liberty.