

## **Gert Magnusson: The Superhero Dilemma**

According to utilitarian philosophy it is in some cases right for you to sacrifice one person if you by that act can save more people. This is a problem that does not only interest philosophers but has become predominant in fiction, specifically in every action novel, movie or TV-series there is. The utilitarian problem is however negated and reformulated in fiction to what I call the superhero dilemma: How is the superhero (or hero) to act in order to save everyone without sacrificing anyone?

I will exemplify how the utilitarian moral problem is presented in fiction and how the protagonists face such horrors. My examples are mainly taken from season five of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and I show various ways in which the utilitarian problem is presented and what strategies are available to the superhero (Buffy) when she faces the dilemma that she might have to sacrifice someone in order to let others live.

The presentation is exploring one of the themes from my essay "The Superhero Dilemma," where I deal with a much wider field of problems.