**To Lie, or Not to Lie, That is the Question**

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**Introduction**

- **What is lying?**
  Lying is the act of making a false statement to another individual, with the intention that the individual will believe that the statement is true.

- **Everyone lies but is it an action that is justifiable, even for a governing body?**

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**Immanuel Kant**

- **Universal Law**
  - Act according to a maxim that can be universally applied.

- **Categorical Imperative**
  - What ought to be done must be based on reason alone and not the desired outcome.

- **One’s Duty**
  - Our duty not to tell a lie is more important than any other conflicting duty.

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**John Stuart Mill**

- **Utilitarianism**
  - Acts are good provided that the consequences are good as well.

- **Greater Happiness Principle**
  - An action is good so long as it produces happiness for the greater number with the absence of pain.

- **Lying**
  - A lie is moral or immoral based on the consequences the lie produces.

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**Possible Exceptions**

- **Patriot Act**
  - Surveillance of citizens for protection against possible threats.

- **It is acceptable for a government to lie if it is for the protection of its citizens.**

- **A government can withhold information from its citizens without it being considered lying.**

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**Consequences**

- **Watergate Scandal**
  - Nixon was threatened to be impeached.

- **Citizens may revolt if government lies to them.**

- **If it were acceptable for a government to lie, then everyone would be able to lie and as a result nothing would ever get done in society because you would never be able to trust anyone.**

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**Conclusion**

- **Overall, the government should not lie to its citizens, but as we have shown there are certain situations when it is acceptable.**

- **There are certain consequences to lying if it is done with bad intentions.**

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**Philosophers**

- **Kant**
- **Mill**

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