

Reasoning with the Tao Answer Key

Note: Responses will vary. Below are sample answers showing the kind of reasoning expected.

1. **"Men without chests" refers to people who lack properly trained emotions and values.** Lewis believes that without alignment between reason and feeling, humans lose the capacity for virtue. In modern society, this may apply to education that teaches skills but avoids moral formation.
2. **A society cannot fully function if all morality is relative.** Without shared standards, laws and justice lose meaning. For example, if stealing is "right for me but wrong for you," order breaks down.
3. **Lewis argues the Tao is universal, and I agree there are some shared moral truths (like prohibitions against murder or the value of honesty).** However, some details of morality do differ between cultures, which shows both universality and variation.
4. **A world where technology controls instincts might appear like progress, but Lewis would see it as dangerous.** He would argue that it strips humans of real freedom and turns them into objects to be manipulated.
5. **The greatest strength of Lewis's argument is that it highlights the logical self-contradiction of relativism.** The greatest weakness may be that he doesn't fully explore how cultures legitimately differ in moral practices while still sharing core truths.