**A Puzzle about Probabilism**

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**A Story**

LOGIC PROBLEM:

(L) If Lenny is happy if and only if Jenny and Benny are not happy, then if Jenny is happy if Benny is not, Lenny is not happy.

Anna is certain that (L) is true. But then Chad tells her that before she began the exam, she was slipped a reason distorting drug that badly impairs people’s ability to solve logic problems; those who are affected by the drug only reach the right conclusions 20% of the time. Unbeknownst to everyone, the drug was a placebo.

**Key Principles**

*Probabilism*: An agent’s credences should be probabilistically coherent

Key axiom = *Normality*: For any tautology, t, Cr (t) = 1.

*Calibrationism*: For any proposition, p, if, independently of the first-order reasoning in question, your expected degree of reliability concerning whether p is x, then your credence in p should be x.

*No Dilemmas*: The principles of rationality cannot be such that, for some bodies of evidence, an agent with that evidence is doomed to have an impermissible credence no matter what.

**The Puzzle**

(1) No Dilemmas is true.

(2) Anna is subject to Probabilism and Calibrationism.

(3) Anna will either have a credence of 1 in (L) or else she will not.

(4) If not, then Anna’s credence will violate Probabilism.

(5) If so, then Anna’s credence will violate Calibrationism.

(6) Thus, No Dilemmas is false.

**An Argument for Rational Indeterminacy**

(7) If there are two principles of rationality such that one’s credence in p cannot jointly satisfy the principles in question, then one must override the other.

(8) Anna’s credence in (L) cannot jointly satisfy Probabilism and Calibrationism.

(9) So, w.r.t. Anna’s credence in (L), Probabilism overrides Calibrationism or vice versa.

(10) There is either a plausible way of specifying which requirement takes priority, or else there are two equally good resolutions.

(11) There is no plausible way of specifying which requirement takes priority.

(12) So, there are two equally good resolutions.

(13) If there are two equally good resolutions, then some credences are indeterminately rational.

(14) So, in LOGIC PROBLEM, it is indeterminate which credence Anna is permitted or required to have in (L).

**Other Important Stuff**

*Resolution*: A maximally consistent set of epistemic principles that apply to an agent with respect to her credence in a specific proposition.

*Determinate Permissibility*: It is permissible to have a credence, c, iff. it is permissible to have c on the correct resolution.

*Determinate Impermissibility*: It is impermissible to have a credence, c, iff. it is impermissible to have c on the correct resolution.

*Determinate Requirement*: One is required to have a credence, c, iff. it is impermissible to not have c on the correct resolution.

*Indeterminately Rational*: It is indeterminate whether one is permitted or required to have a credence, c, iff. one is permitted to have c on some resolutions but not on others and it is unsettled which resolution is the correct one.