

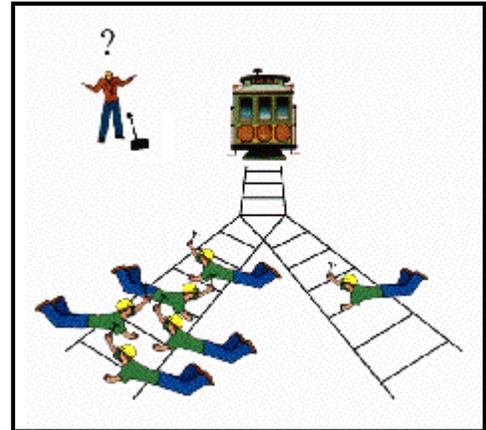
## Moral Dilemmas and the "Trolley Problem"

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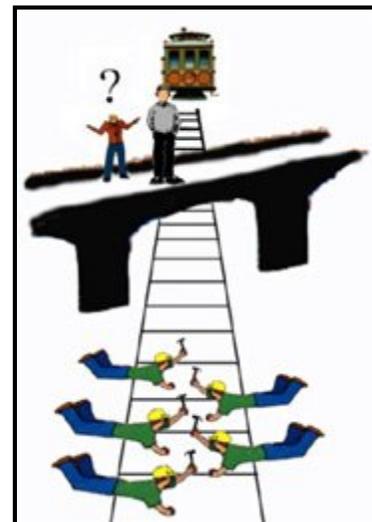
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The "Trolley Problem" was originally posed by the philosophers Philippa Foot and Judith Jarvis Thomson:

First, we have the *switch* dilemma: A runaway trolley is hurtling down the tracks toward five people who will be killed if it proceeds on its present course. You can save these five people by diverting the trolley onto a different set of tracks, one that has only one person on it, but if you do this that person will be killed. Is it morally permissible to turn the trolley and thus prevent five deaths at the cost of one? Most people say "Yes."



Then we have the *footbridge* dilemma: Once again, the trolley is headed for five people. You are standing next to a large man on a footbridge spanning the tracks. The only way to save the five people is to push this man off the footbridge and into the path of the trolley. Is that morally permissible? Most people say "No."



These two cases create a puzzle for moral philosophers: What makes it okay to sacrifice one person to save five others in the *switch* case but not in the *footbridge* case?