

Morality should be based on rational principles, a fixed set of moral rules that apply to everyone at all times. Societal norms and personal beliefs change, while Kantian Deontology relies on categorical imperative, a test to see if an action is truly moral. Kant argues that all individuals deserve respect, regardless of their actions, because they possess rationality and inherent moral worth.

The Elite quickly make a name for themselves by killing criminals and terrorists, positioning themselves as the new standard for justice. Unlike Superman, who always seeks to preserve life and uphold due process, The Elite act as judge, jury, and executioner. This challenges Kant's Universalizability Principle, where if every hero killed their enemies then justice would collapse into chaos. At first, the world was divided in their response. Many people cheer The Elite for permanently resolving problems, arguing that Superman's "old-fashioned" morality is outdated and that villains deserve swift, lethal punishment. Others worry that The Elite's unchecked power could lead to tyranny. As The Elite's popularity grows, they challenge Superman directly, mocking his insistence on restraint and justice. Manchester Black taunts Superman, telling him the world no longer believes in his values of truth and justice. Black and his team escalate the situation by slaughtering an entire army of bioengineered soldiers and publicly humiliating Superman, making him appear that he is powerless to stop them. They do this by stopping Superman's bioelectrical functions, rendering him immobile, forcing him to watch helplessly. Instead of finishing him off, they mock him by teleporting him in front of a crowd at a car dealership in Metropolis.

As Superman continues to disagree with their practices, The Elite denounce him as part of the problem. They set up a final confrontation, Superman's 'last wish' that the battle takes place away from Metropolis, humanity, framing it as a battle to the death. Rather than sinking to

their level, Superman stages a masterful deception. He pretends to break his own code, appearing to brutally kill The Elite one by one. He even makes Manchester Black believe he has lobotomized him, stripping away his psychic powers. In reality, Superman never killed anyone, he merely used his speed and tactics to disable them non-lethally. For instance, Manchester Black was only given a focused concussion. While some may argue this is trickery, a lie, his intent was not to manipulate but to demonstrate a universal moral truth which aligns with Kant's philosophy. His goal was to show The Elite the error in their ways of thinking, and to show the world what it would really look like if he embraced The Elite's brutal philosophy. Faced with the horror of their own logic, The Elite are defeated and exposed. The world, now seeing the true consequences of their approach, rejects their methods and reaffirms Superman as the true hero.

Superman's choices perfectly align with Kant's moral philosophy. He follows the universal moral laws, refusing to kill because morality should be objective and unchanging. If every hero embraced killing, justice would become empty and meaningless. "Anger is easy, hate is easy, vengeance and spite are easy," however, justice is not. Superman did what was right, not just what works in the short term. In addition, Superman treats people as ends, not means: his enemies deserve justice, not execution. The Elite contradict these values by killing criminals, treating them as obstacles to be removed and not moral agents. Moreover, The Elites's morality is inconsistent where it is based on personal judgment, not universal principles. Finally, The Elite justify their actions solely by the consequences alone, creating a world of fear and uncertainty through unchecked power. Superman proves that if everyone acted with restraint and justice, society would be fair and stable. Ultimately Superman's dream of a world where "dignity, honor, and justice become reality" is a Kantian utopia, where people act morally because it is right, not because they fear punishment or seek personal gain. In the end, Superman's victory is not just

physical but ideological, he reaffirms morality is not outdated and the principles of truth and justice must endure, no matter how much the world changes.