

Brandon Stotts-Nay

BUS 1050

August 10, 2013

REFLECTION 4: Thomas Aquinas On Cheating

This reading from Thomas Aquinas was important because it dealt with the issue of business ethics. The main issues the article covered were selling things for more than they are worth, faults in things sold, starting defects in things sold, and making a profit. Aquinas discusses the difference between human law and divine law. He says that human law prohibits by punishment that which is destructive of social relations but then rewards nothing. Divine law prohibits that which is sinful. With all of the continents interconnecting with each other there needed to be some middle ground due to each having their own rules and laws. Aquinas things that there should be principles laid out about how individuals should operate their businesses. As for goods being sold he thinks that you should buy and sell items for no more or less than it is truly worth. Business owners should be straight forward about defective products. The only time that a defect can be ignored is when that defect is obvious.

Aquinas, in one article, justifies reasons that one can make a profit. He says that one can if it is for the upkeep of the household, if it is going towards the assistance of the needy, the profits will go towards public advantage, or if the profit is compensation for labor. He also endorses profits be used and be made if it is going towards the improvement the product, if enough time has passed and the value of the product has gone up, and/or if the risk of transportation is great.

This was a difficult read and most of what I understood about it came from the discussion in class. We discussed that the main reasons why businesses fail is because either 1) they do not have some sort of an accounting system or 2) the businesses were not selling their product high enough. Some businesses, by not selling a product high enough, do so because they want to give their colleagues a good deal.