



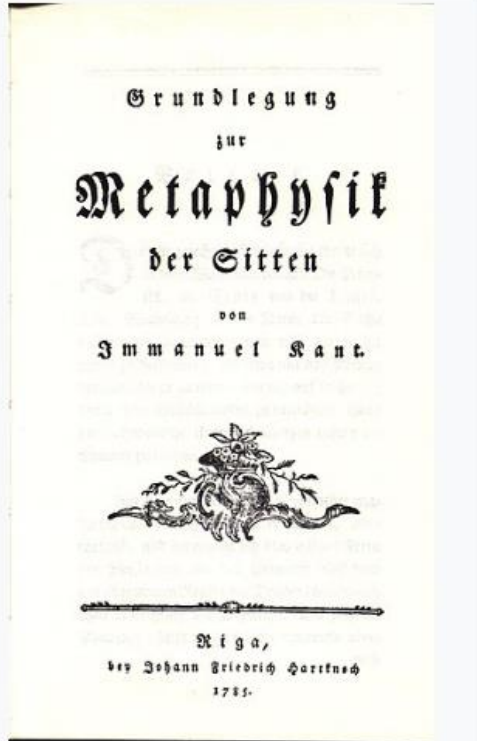
Kantian Ethics

Immanuel Kant

- Immanuel Kant was born in 1724 in Königsberg in East Prussia. German
- His studies was in **Epistemology, ethics, and aesthetics**
- He influenced all subsequent philosophy, especially the various schools of **Kantianism** and **idealism**.



Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals



Critique of Judgment

Critik
der Urtheilskraft
von
Immanuel Kant.

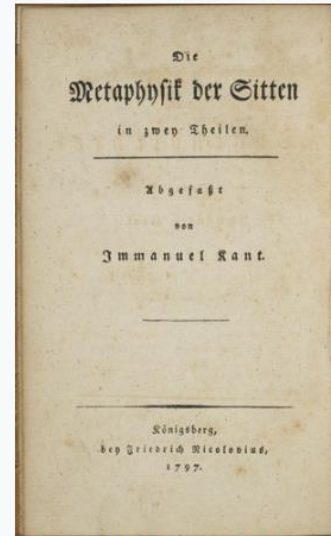


Berlin und Litau,
bey Lagarde und Friederich
1790.

Title page of the 1790 original work

Author Immanuel Kant
Original title *Critik der Urtheilskraft*^a
Country Germany

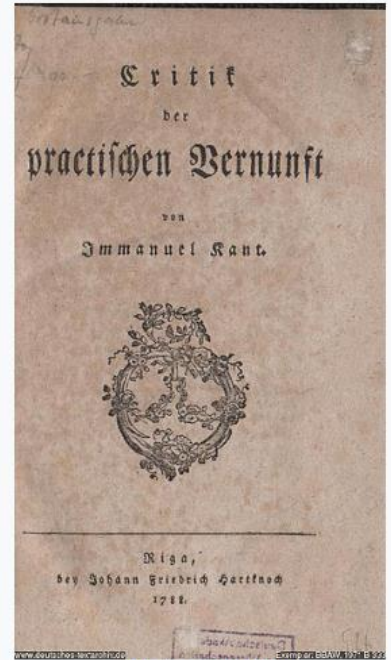
Metaphysics of Morals



Cover of the first edition

Author Immanuel Kant
Original title *Die Metaphysik der Sitten*

Critique of Practical Reason



1788 German edition



- Kant is famous for revolutionizing we think about just about every aspect of the world.
- Kant is a rationalist writing during the Enlightenment (1685—1815). He thinks that we can gain knowledge from our **senses** and through our **rational capacities**. This means his general philosophical approach starts by asking what we can **know a priori**

a priori

- **An Epistemological Terms**
- Examples include knowledge of logical truths such as
- the law of non-contradiction,
- knowledge of abstract claims (such as ethical claims or claims about various conceptual matters)
- if I am thinking, I exist,

Is the study of Ethics inward or outward?

- We think the study of ethics — unlike say maths — ought to direct our eye to what is going on around us in the world. Yet Kant starts by turning his eyes **"inward"** to **thinking about ethical ideas.**

Right and wrong act for Kant

- Last example of lying === death
- Kant's theory is deontological rather than teleological. It focuses on our duties rather than our ends/goals/consequences.

Right and wrong act for Kant

- certain actions are right and wrong irrespective of how we might feel and irrespective of any consequences. For Kant, actions are right if they respect what he calls the **Categorical Imperative**.

my pet cat vs my daughter



my pet cat vs my daughter act

- my pet cat performs certain actions **like** **scrabbling under bed covers, meowing at birds and chasing his tail.**
- Now consider my daughter, she performs certain actions **like** **caring for her sister and helping the homeless.**
- **which actions are moral moral?**

**my pet cat vs my daughter
which actions are moral moral?**



- the cat's actions are **not moral** whereas the daughter 's actions **are**.
- The cat's thinking and actions are driven by his **desires and inclination**. He eats and plays and sleeps when he desires to do so, there is no **reasoning** on his part.
 - We are **rational**

Some Key Ideas

1. your friend has told you that she is pregnant but asks you to promise to keep her secret

Some Key Ideas: 'Duty'

The Secret of my Friend



The Secret of my Friend

Imagine, your friend has told you A secret but asks you to promise to keep her secret. Through the coming weeks this juicy bit of gossip is on the tip of your tongue but you do not tell anyone because of your promise.

The Secret of my Friend.

There are things we recognize as being required Of us irrespective Of What (really) desire to do. This is what Kant means by duty.

Reflection questions

- If it is not desires that move us to do what is right (even really strong desires),
- **what does? In our example, Why is it that we keep our promise despite the strong desire to gossip?**

Kant's answer is "the good will"

The Good Will characteristics

- “A good is good not because Of what it **effects** or accomplishes — because Of its fitness for attaining some proposed end: it is good through its **willing alone** — that is, good
“ Kant. , p, 40
- The good will unlike anything else is good **unconditionally**

The Good will

- can you think of any?)

Examples of Good will

- Consider Mahatma Gandhi's (1869–1948) non-violent protest for Indian independence. He stood peacefully whilst the British police beat him. Here is a case where there must have been an overwhelming desire to fight back.

Acting for the Sake of Duty and Acting in Accordance with Duty

- Kant says to act from good will is acting for the sake of duty. We act despite our desires to do otherwise. For Kant this means that **acting for the sake of duty is the only way that an action can have moral worth.**
- -We will see below what we have to do for our actions to be carried out for the sake of duty.

Cosider Ahmed and Ali's act

- Ahmed was walking with a friend. he passed someone begging on the street. He starts to weep, fumbles in his wallet and gives the beggar some money. He feels such an empathy with the poor man that he just has to help him.*

Consider Ahmed and Ali's act

- **Ali has no sympathy for the suffering of others and no inclination to help them. But despite this:
“...he nevertheless tears himself from his deadly insensibility and performs the action without any inclination at all, but solely from duty then for the first time his action has genuine moral worth.”**

Which action has moral worth

• Ahmed was walking with a friend. he passed someone begging on the street. He starts to weep, fumbles in his wallet and gives the beggar some money. He feels such an empathy with the poor man that he just has to help him.

• Ali has no sympathy for the suffering of others and no inclination to help them. But despite this: "...he nevertheless tears himself from his deadly insensibility and performs the action without any inclination at all, but solely from duty then for the first time his action has genuine moral worth."

Consider Ahmed and Ali's act

- **Ali has no sympathy for the suffering of others and no inclination to help them. But despite this:
“...he nevertheless tears himself from his deadly insensibility and performs the action without any inclination at all, but solely from duty then for the first time his action has genuine moral worth.”**

Consider Ahmed and Ali's act

- In contrast to our Ahmed , Ali is acting for the sake of duty and hence his action is moral. We must be careful though. Kant is not telling us to become
- emotionally barren robots!



Consider Ahmed and Ali's act

We should ask whether an action of giving to others would have been performed even if the agent lacked the desire to do so. If the answer is "yes" then the act has moral worth.

Consider Ahmed and Ali's act

This though is consistent with the agent actually having those desires. The question for Kant is not whether an agent has desires but what moved the agent to act. If they acted because of those desires they acted in accordance with duty and their action had no moral worth.

- **To act for the sake of duty what should we do?**

- His answer is that we have to act out of respect for the moral law.
- Hypothetical Imperatives Categorical Imperative”

Discussion questions

- 1. from which approach/es does Kant study morals?**
- 2. What are the concepts that coincide with his In Islam?**

Storytelly corner



Choose one- Speak about :

- 1. a situation in which you noticed lack of transparency and good will ...that was regrettable!**
- 2. An Important person acted of a good will**

My Teacher Monira



The story highlights my teacher's goodwill. Monira officially works as a middle school . She taught us primary school pupils with great love and joy, even though she had not awarded extra money.



Thank you