

Kantianism 7.1-7.3
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"Faring well" Vs. "Doing right"

- One of the contrasts to "Faring well" is "doing right"
 - Since it is very possible and pretty common for people that live corrupt lifestyles to fare well in life
- Plato says: Getting their own way and triumphing over others only seem to get the best of it
 - However they do damage to their own fundamental interests
- Materially best life vs the morally best life
 - Faust and his deal with the devil
 - The important philosophy of a good life



What is Kantianism?

Kantianism places worth in moral behavior and virtue.

Disregards things like wealth and success.

In particular, it treats "intention" as the most important thing. Consequence and sentiment are irrelevant.

As long as an action is taken in good will, to "do the right thing", then it is good.

Conversely, even if someone is helped by an action, it was worthless if it was done with malicious intent.

Kant emphasizes a sense of "purity" in good will that should come from a sincere desire to help people.

Deep Dive

- One of Kant's main arguments about the notion of good was that "Nothing in the world – indeed nothing even beyond the world – can possibly be conceived which could be called good without qualification except a good will"
- Quote traces back to the main point at how intention is the most important thing when defining if an action is good or bad

- This then begs the question, what is good will?
 - And if there is a definite answer, can a unified standard be made that everyone could look at?
- How would you define it?
- How could you verify one was acting in good will?

Practical Reason

- Theoretical
 - Statement of a logical fact
 - Ends with a conclusion about what is
 - E.g. Smoking causes cancer.
- Practical
 - "If you want to do x, you ought to do y."
 - Ends with a conclusion of what is to be done
 - E.g. Everyone should learn how to drive.
 - Rational vs irrational based on people's desires
- "We ought to not steal from others"
 - B/c it would cause harm to others
 - What if one does not care about harming others?
 - Can we logically reason about "practical" matters?



Questions?