

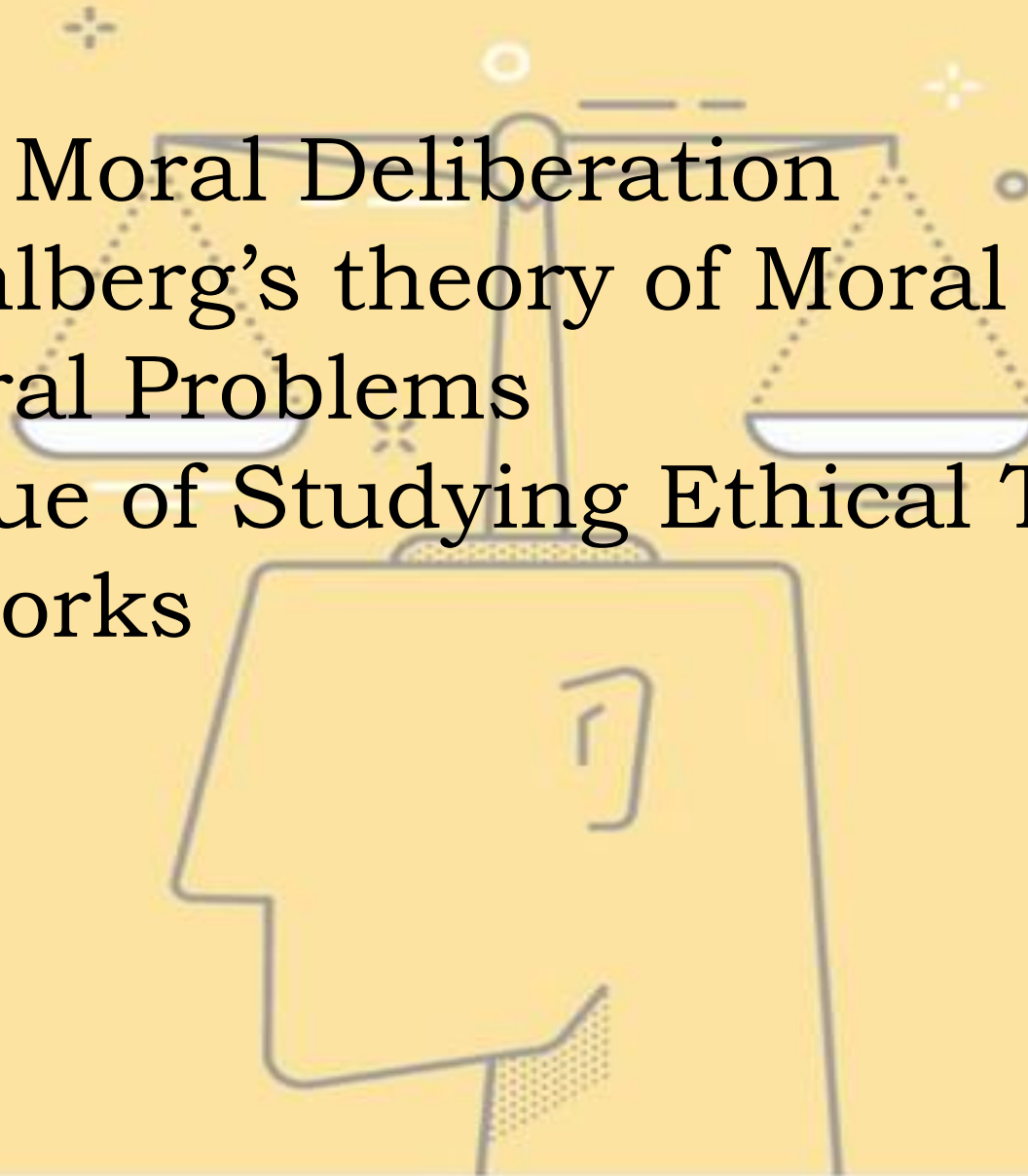


# **Lesson 2:**

# **Moral Deliberation**

# Content:

- What is Moral Deliberation
- The Kohlberg's theory of Moral Development
- The Moral Problems
- The Value of Studying Ethical Theories or Frameworks





# What is Moral Deliberation

- Moral deliberation is like that moment when you have to decide what's right and wrong, not just what's convenient or easy.
- It's like the little angel and devil on your shoulders, and you have to choose who to listen to.
- The necessary growth, which is a maturation in moral reasoning, has been the focus of study of many theorists.

# Kohlberg's theory of Moral Development

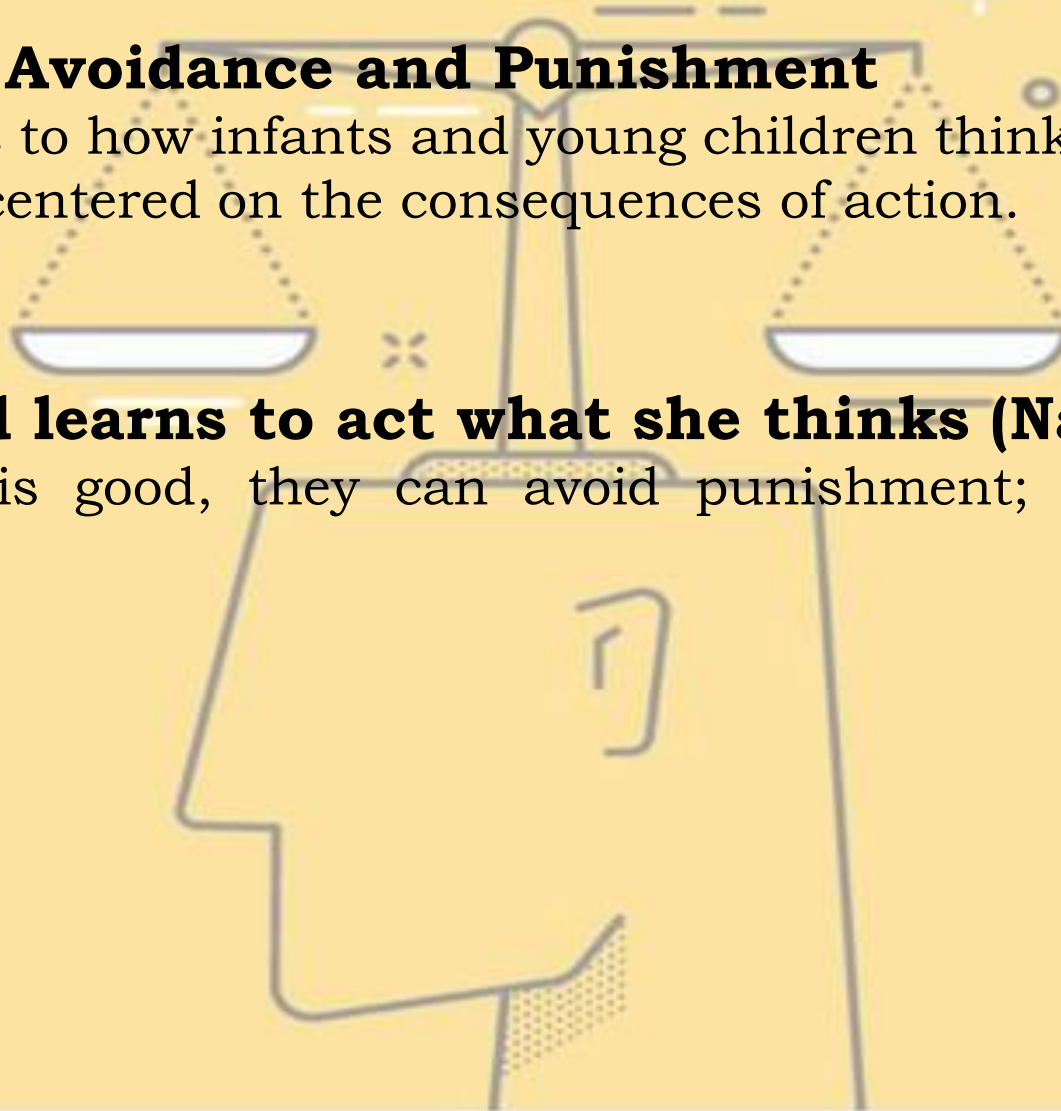
## **A. First stage – Pre-conventional**

### **1. Obedience Vs. Avoidance and Punishment**

- it corresponds to how infants and young children think
- Reasoning is centered on the consequences of action.

### **2. Reasoning and learns to act what she thinks (Naively Egoistical)**

- If an action is good, they can avoid punishment; if it's bad it led to punishment



## **B. SECOND STAGE CONVENTIONAL**

### **3. Good boy and Good Girl Orientation**

- Begins to act according to what the larger group she belongs to expects of her.
- The general tendency at this age is to conform first to the values of one's immediate group, such as her family playmates or later on barkada.

### **4. Law and Social Order**

- When a person realizes that following the dictates of her society is not just good for herself but more importantly it is necessary for the existence of society itself.



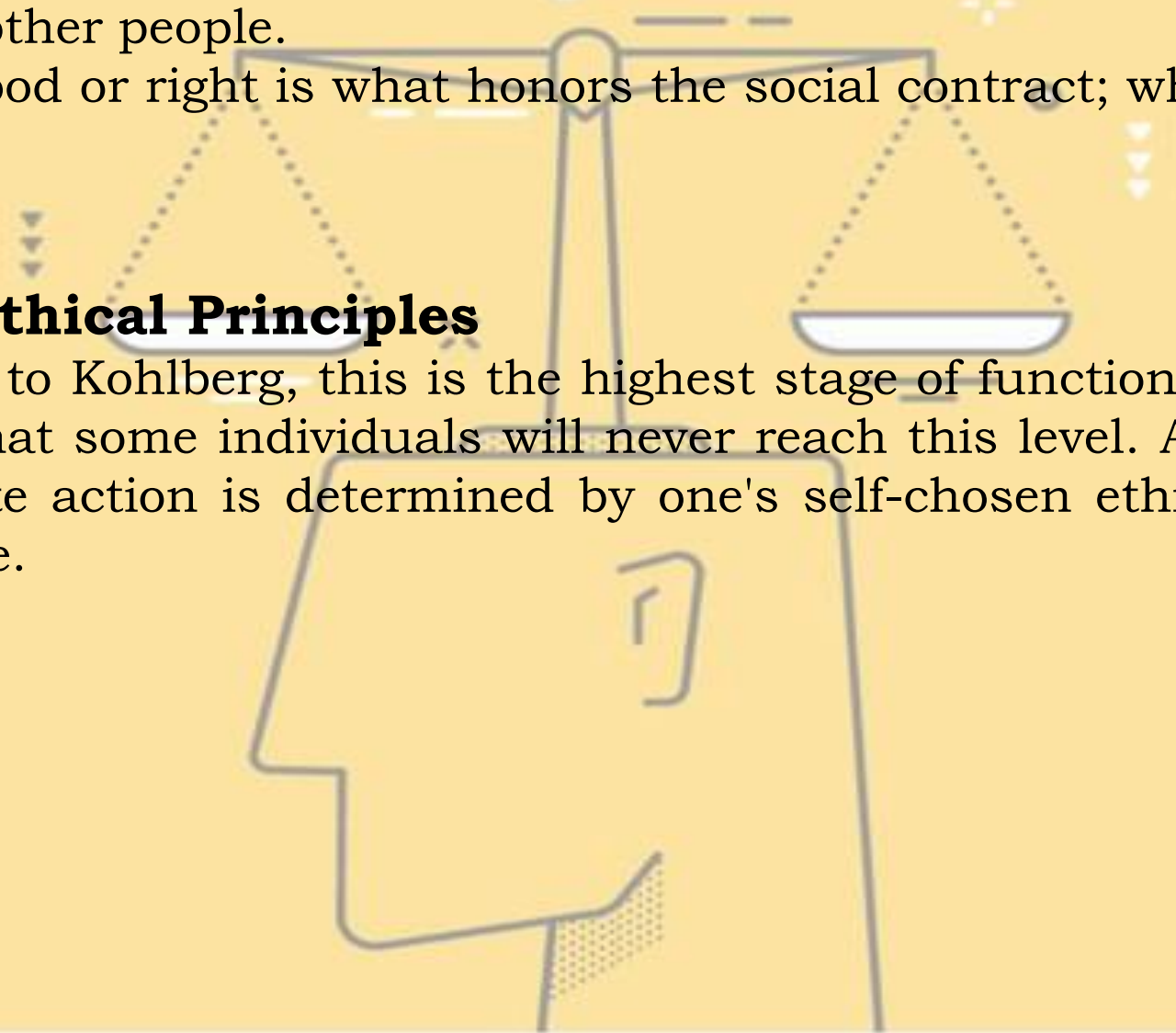
## C. POST CONVENTIONAL

### 5. Legalistic Social Contract

- At this stage, people begin to account for the differing values, opinions, and beliefs of other people.
- What is good or right is what honors the social contract; what contradicts it is bad.

### 6. Universal ethical Principles

- According to Kohlberg, this is the highest stage of functioning. However, he claimed that some individuals will never reach this level. At this stage, the appropriate action is determined by one's self-chosen ethical principles of conscience.



# The Moral Problems

- We must first understand that there are different types of moral problems each one requiring a particular set of rational deliberations. We may attempt to construct an outline of what we ought to do when confronted with the potential ethical issue.

## **A. FIRST STEP**

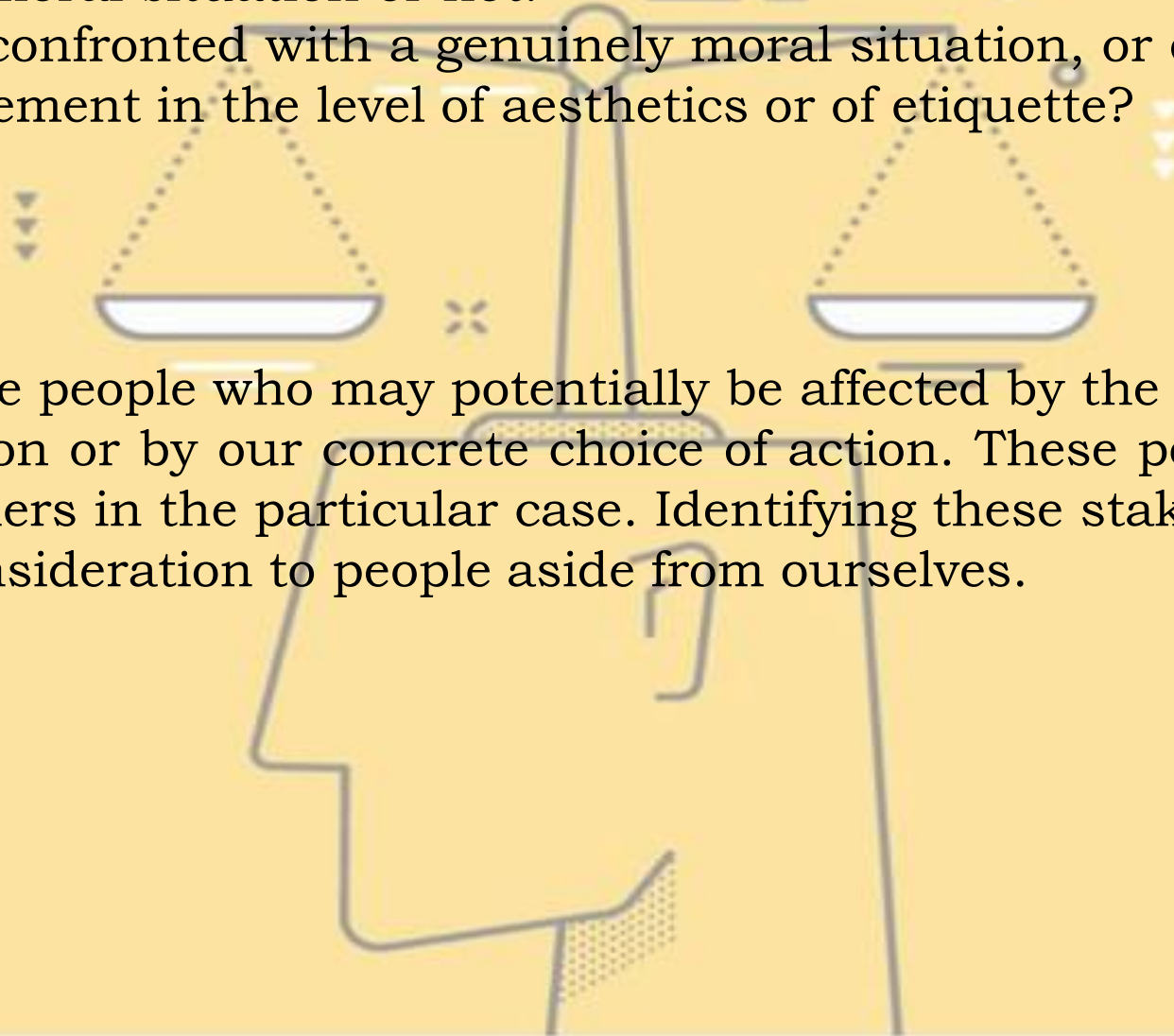
- Determine the level of involvement in the case at hand. Do we need to make moral decision in a situation that needs action on our part? Or are we trying to determine the right thing to do in a particular situation being discussed? In the latter situation, we may be making a moral judgement on a particular case.
- Being moral agent specifically refers to the latter situation we must therefore identify which activity we are engaged in, whether we are making a judgement on a case that we are not involved.

## B. SECOND STEP

- After ascertaining our involvement in the potential moral situation, we then need to make sure of the facts. The first fact to establish is whether we are faced with a moral situation or not.
- Are we truly confronted with a genuinely moral situation, or one that merely involves judgement in the level of aesthetics or of etiquette?

## C. THIRD STEP

- identify all the people who may potentially be affected by the application of a moral situation or by our concrete choice of action. These people are called the stakeholders in the particular case. Identifying these stakeholders forces us to give consideration to people aside from ourselves.





## Several types of ethical problems or issues.

- a.** The first one is a situation in which we need to clarify whether a certain action is morally right or wrong.
- b.** The second one involves determining whether a particular action in question can be identified with a generally accepted ethical or unethical action. E.g. death penalty, is death penalty tantamount to murder?
- c.** The third one is to presence of an ethical dilemma. Dilemma are ethical situations in which there are competing values that seem to have equal worth. The problem can be concerned either with a choice between two competing moral goods or between two evils.

# The Value of Studying Ethical Theories or Frameworks ✧

- ❖ May serve as guide points given that there are the best attempts to understand morality that the history of human thought has to offer, in one's quest to answer the twin question of “what ought I do? What ought I to do so?”

## ❑ UTILITARIANISM

- Puts every single stakeholder at par with everyone else, with no one being worth more than any other. Rich or poor, man or woman, young or old everyone has a much worth as anyone else, values the “common good” compare to any other ethical frameworks we have covered.



## ❑ NATURAL LAW

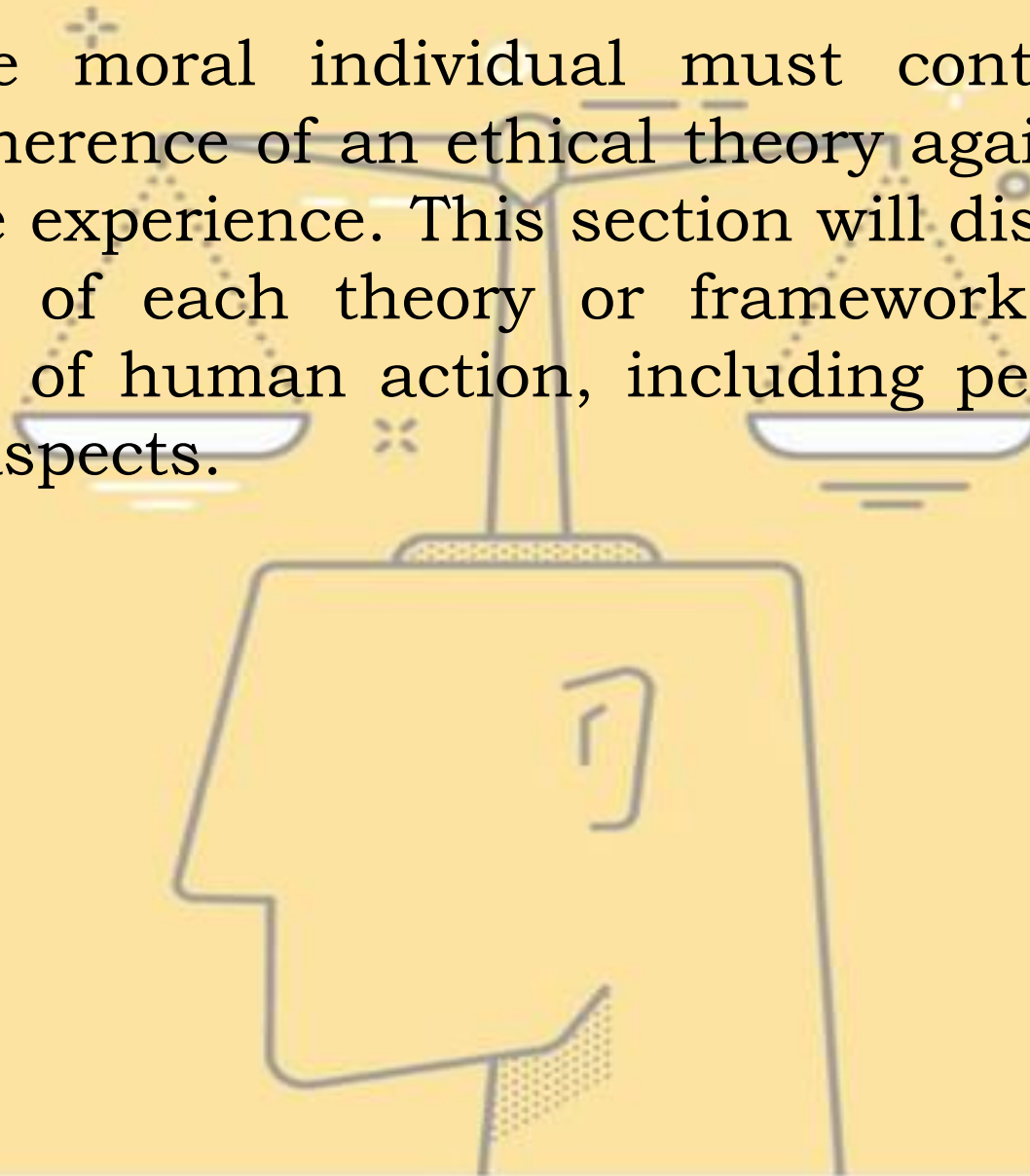
- Puts more emphasis on the supposed objective, universal nature of what is to be considered morally good, basing its reasoning on the theorized existence of a “human nature”.
- This theory has the advantage of both objectivity and a kind of intuitiveness. The latter pertains to the assumption that whatever is right is what feels right, that is.

## ❑ KANTIAN DEONTOLOGY

- Put the premium on rational will, freed from all other consideration as the only human capacity that can determine one's moral duty.
- Kant focus on one's autonomy as constituted of what one can consider as moral law that is free from all other ends and inclinations including pain and pleasure as well as conformity to the rules of the group.



- ✓ The responsible moral individual must continuously test the cogency and coherence of an ethical theory against the complexity of their concrete experience. This section will discuss the strengths and drawbacks of each theory or framework in application to different realms of human action, including personal, social, and environmental aspects.





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***A Slide Presentation***

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