

Mary Midgley: Trying Out One's New Sword

Review Questions:

1. What is "Moral Isolationism"?

Moral Isolationism is a view that we should not care about other cultures and should not be criticized. Every country has its own culture these cultures and traditions differ from one another.

2. Explain the Japanese custom of tsujigiri. What questions does Midgley ask about this custom?

Tsujigiri is a word that means crossroads killing. It is a practice of Japanese Samurai that whenever they receive a new katana or samurai sword, they will try to use it know if it is working properly. Hence, leads to killing an opponent or rather, killing an innocent man. With this tradition, Mary Midgley cited this practice to ask questions to open each other's eyes and minds. "Does the isolating barrier work both ways? Are people in other cultures equally unable to criticize us?" – Mary Midgley

3. What is wrong with moral isolationism, according to Midgley?

Moral Isolationism is somewhat makes us does not care about any other cultures except ours. It was as if we do not care at all.

4. What does Midgley think is the basis for criticizing other culture?

It is to accept other culture, to be part of our culture. Yes, all of us are different but we can accept these cultures based from what we think are right or wrong.

Discussion Questions:

1. Midgley says that Nietzsche is an immoralist. Is that an accurate and fair assessment of Nietzsche? Why or why not?

For me, it is not a fair assessment of Nietzsche because these two people have different views and ideologies.

2. Do you agree with Midgley's claim that the idea of separate and unmixed cultures is unreal? Explain your answer.

In my opinion, separate and unmixed culture is real. Yes, we do respect the culture of others but it doesn't stop us from separating ourselves to them since we hold on to what we believe.