

Although many things guide human actions, what determines behavior the most is usually morality. Before, I thought morality meant deciding if something was right or wrong. However, the insights from Module 4 helped me understand more deeply what it means to be morally responsible. Being aware that people act with purpose, knowledge and freedom led me to think of morality as a deliberate, considered process when dealing with the results of one's own actions.

We must think about and consider every action we take. Without them, there is nothing truly moral about an action. Responsibility begins with our will and freedom, which guide how we make decisions. What individuals know, what they intend, and how much control they have over their actions all contribute to the morality of their behavior. Because of this, we are able to move from making simple assumptions to evaluating with good reasons and respect.

Everyday situations often make it hard for us to act freely. We often behave a certain way because of fear, habits, a lack of knowledge and emotions—often without even realizing it. There are some things we do automatically, but others we must really focus on. That's the reason we must examine the ethics of certain actions. We must stop, review what we believe, how we feel and our responses. A lack of awareness or intentional wrongdoing affects the moral quality of our decisions. Real change starts when you stop letting things happen to you.

Today, it is common to use excuses instead of taking responsibility, but being morally fulfilling means accepting the things we do. We should realize that threats or violence from the outside world can make us less in charge and we should adjust our judgment as a result. Yet, knowingly and freely chosen actions remain our responsibility—we cannot simply say they were accidents. What matters more than the action is how you came to take that action.

When I use this principle in my life, I see why making choices thoughtfully and fully aware matters. Feelings and lack of information should not prevent us from being morally responsible. Meaning in our actions is supported by more than we see on the surface; we also depend on our beliefs, willpower and knowledge. This module has taught me that being moral is not only about choosing what is good, but also about fully embracing our human ability to reason, choose freely, and act with conscience.