Austin Gray

Philosophy 303

Assignment 21

Next Thompson presents and analogy to show that third parties cannot intervene without the consent of the mother, but may assist if given consent. The analogy start by considering a very small house and a rapidly growing baby. The mother is in the tiny house and is being pushed towards the wall by the expanding baby. The mother will soon be crushed to death if nothing is done to stop the expanding child, while he child will simply break the house and be just fine. If someone were to pass by and see the event unfolding they would have no claim to action as it is not their life that is in danger and to them the life of both should be equal. The mother on the other hand would have a valid claim to defend herself in this example and if she were to as the by-stander for help they would be obliged to assist. Further this analogy could be seen as the mother as being the owner of the house (similar to the womb) and the baby is simply a tenant of the house. The mother has a property right to protect the house from the baby and to deny assistance to the mother would be denying her rights. Thompson concludes that a third-party can intervene if and only if the mothers consent is given.