

ETHICS | Murthy #1

Ethics₁: Usual knowing how to behave; common sense

Ethics₂: Rational/understand/logical analysis

of Ethics

Eg. Martin Luther King talks about both.

- Ethics isn't a different field that needs experts.
- We think about ethics all the time; e.g. usual decisions [even if you weren't a threat later; don't deserve to live]
- Why death sentence - "he killed (Retribution; you deserve) [even if he's a risk to society (deterrent for others)]."
- Is ethics about asserting your rights?
or obligation?
- What is the source of moral standards?
 - (a) derived from society
 - (b) basic religious attachment
 - (c) God made human nature
 - (d) Evolution human nature
- Categorize
 - (a) Problem of source of ethics
 - (b) Problem of relativism
 - (i) hardwired, no common
 - (ii) of society, still not unique
 - (c) Problem of Human Nature (selfish)
 - (d) what makes something right or wrong
 - Evaluating a judgement based on consequences of the action.

Murphy #2

(Ethics)

(Ethics) - Principles of Ethics; examine, test for inconsistencies.

Trolley car example - version (1) Drive, lost control; divert & save modified

Morality is related to Laws (2) Person on bridge; won't push → contradiction

defense - option of not killing at all.

counter - not saving = killing? Then becoming a scientist not a doc.

means giving, killing

- question of involvement; e.g. car with crying person round; 90% pass by;

are they moral? → question of obligation.

While morality is relative,
it doesn't displace morality
eg.

Colors, so long as red & green look distinct, there's a concept of color; but what one sees as green, maybe different from what you see as green.

(Morality is independent)

e.g. 1) Do gods choose what's good because it's good?
2) Is good good because gods choose it?

→ consider this case: the patient has signed 'his organs be transplanted'. There are various people with various organs failing. The doctor hastens the death, else the organs won't be fit for transplant.

Aug 10, 2015

Murthy #2.1

Morality ~~assume law means~~ lawmakers
law enactors.

Question: Are laws moral? If they're made by the lawmaker?
or are the laws that lawmakers choose are moral laws?

Acknowledgment → latter must be true.

Conclusion: Morality is independent of the lawmaker.

"Whether God makes a good choice or a bad choice it doesn't matter".

If rewards & punishments are removed, can I do whatever?

'Morality' = acting in self-interest → it's not moral

[↓] "Moral"

Issues: (a) Laws can be personal; impersonal; "right action" may not constraints
(b) Worrisome - lack of overlap/conflict → chaos

Q1 (a) What is the source (if there's no lawmaker)? (b) Why should we be moral?

Q2. Moral adjudication of actions (given morality is personal) → Moral Reasoning

Morality is all about the recognition of concern for others.

Justify: Extreme case; psychological point; even human (not logical premise)
seriousness in criticism: "Goodness of all"

A2. "Concern for others" behind the action → restore: Small child suffering

— yields the moral force of actions.

RAND CORPN ← Advanced MBA, etc. ↔ U.S. economy will grow

Point: Moral philosophy requires you to care about ethics.

Diff b/w Morality & Ethics

Murthy #2.2

Ethics: "Philosophy of Morality"
"Moral Philosophy"

Origin: Ethics - Ethos from Greek
Morals - Morales from Latin

Following codes of conduct one def Ethics

Ethical not moral ex: oil company lawyer

Moral not ethical ex: Batman

There're practices that yet accepted which means

"it's ethical but not moral"

Q. Who decides what's accepted?

Mundane Questions (eg. help homeless etc.) - can be answered by a layman

Abstract Questions (eg. What is Justice) - answers of prof. philosophers & a layman will vary.

Moral Philosophy

Applied Ethics

Moral Theory

Practical Concerns (e.g. Business & Warfare)
(a) Q: Consequences of an action
(b) Q: Rights
(c) Q: What is Justice?

Why bother with Moral philosophy?

A. Articulating the intuition behind Moral Judgements

- (a) makes it clear how to assess those principles
- (b) allows for having debates on & discussions necessary

Example of Moral Reasoning

Situation: X does good to himself & his fellows.
his mates don't like him
he is convicted & is sentenced to death.

Options: Bribe the authorities; get another country; assume certainty in that others won't get caught.

Socrates: Don't use that option

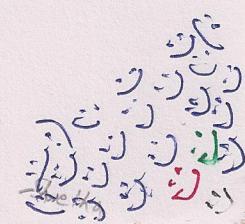
: Pufification / (a) Ought never to harm anyone
Principles { He's harming both himself & the state }
(b) Ought to obey its laws
(c) Obey your parents

: Statement of fact (a) harming the state
(b) Agree / follow / get sentenced
(c) Parent = State

Twist: The state doesn't demand sentencing, & he is not allowed to teach;

Assume also he must teach for the welfare of the state by his principles.

Issue: Precedence Rules; now there're conflicts.



Q Why we need ethics?

- S. (1) Freedom needs ethics
 (2) Scrutiny of actions → accountable
 could be cases where common sense runs out.

Metaethics

Eg. lying, stealing etc. are they
 (a) facts
 (b) reducible to other statements

Foundations of politics

- (a) Justice
 (b) Freedom
 (c) Rights

Eg. 'Lying is wrong': Moral Judgement
 ↓
 Reasons : Moral Theory

Judgement of the moral judgement

: Basically 2nd order therefore meta

Discourse = Deep Narrative (formal; written usually)

Diff b/w fact & attitude are addressed for statements like 'lying is wrong'.

Further: Is right wrong a property we attribute (like orange as color)

Discourse about the project of ethics

Lecture

- (A) Consequentialism:
 (B) Categorical: based on duties, rights etc.

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Murthy #3.1

Discourse (analytic movement)

1st order
Normative Ethics

2nd order: Meta ethics.

↳ Linguistic analysis

↳ Judgement of moral judgements
(Meaning, logic of the language of morals)

Illustration: Using the Land acquisition bill.

Earlier, 18xx : The govt. can acquire land for "benefit of public"
etc.
"Public purpose"

Proposed: (1) Consent
(2) Fair compensation
(3) Social impact

New Proposal: (1) X : because of sovereign;
social gain prevails over private interest
(2) Consequentialist view

(3) X: Delay acquisition.

Meta: Why debate? (a) Moral principle (discovery of it)
(b) decision?

(b) How does it compare to making a discovery in physics?

↳ In physics peers must agree

↳ Are there similar objective tests in the example?
or is there some authority?

(b) How are typical decisions made?

↳ Eg. Cricket who bats; tosser decides who bats

Eg 2. Lawsuit, submit to an authority, judge

Idea: There's an authority

↳ What is the equivalent in a moral discussion?
Ingenieris (new of its type)

A → will cause misery

B → New to {statute book} terms like
no compensation etc.

C → Will cause development

Meta: Are we confusing "ought to be" with facts?

↳ (a) Premise: (i) "Reduce misery" acts ought to be done
(ii) Bill will reduce misery

Conclusion: From (i) & (ii) the bill ought to be passed.

(b) Premise: (i) Bill will reduce misery
some philosophers say (i) is enough to conclude the bill
must be passed. Some facts like "reduces misery" etc.

! Are "ought to be" statements like statements about taste?

↳ compare this with for instance "strawberries are pleasant"

Relative

Normative Ethics: A theory that tells what's right & wrong.

(viz. right & wrong are assumed, but these maybe
subjective, unlike facts)

Relativism: Eg. Bull fighting is cruel; or it promotes courage etc.
War itself is wrong

claim: There's nothing to morality than social ..

Ethics / Murthy #3.2

Relativism (Meta ethical position)

↳ Targets moral theories (they claim right/wrong) etc.

(a) ↳ Results from whose conception of right/wrong?

↳ Question itself imposes doctrine

(b) ↳ What is after all the difference b/w right/wrong?

(c) ↳ Multiple systems are equally true

↳ False conception of morality results from insisting one of them

Illustration: Child Labour

for (a) Extreme Relativism → the society at some place accepts child labour

↳ Child Labour is bad is a 'western' concept.

argument: What's your problem?

consequence: Differences in moral judgement can't be resolved.

+ (d) ↳ There might be a universal moral law, but how do we find it?

↳ Can some person have this knowledge? Authority?

↳ Means of getting the knowledge?

(e) Selfish; vested interest of influential; it's a tool

Digress: Exploitation is what makes new ideas. (morality related)

Against Relativism

(a) Evaluate right/wrong etc.

(b) Social Progress

(c) Moral authority they can't accept (even authorities are conflict)

↳ He doesn't accept: he rejects the idea of moral truth

↳ Moral knowledge: they're like tastes/preferences.

↳ Reason can influence moral decision

Taste can't be affected

Possible articulations
for making a case for
Relativism.

Issues with morality

↳ Authority is an issue
(Relativism)

Why is it claimed that morality is relative?

- ↳ Superficially they claim: no universal truth; morals are opinions
- ② "Something more": Authority is what they're resisting
 - Possible claim: happens everyday (a) we test if practices are right/wrong
 - (b) Normative debates
- Nobody will object to this

③ They don't explicitly say we don't want an authority, but they say instead say there's no unified moral theory.

If $A = \text{Authority}$, $M = \text{morality}$, then $\neg A \Rightarrow M$
 $A \Rightarrow M$

Diffr b/w morality & taste?

Morality you give reasons, for taste you didn't.
→ 3rd possibility for moral truths to exist

Relativists are perceiving authority from moral disagreement (not just that, relativism = subjective opinions)

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline A \in & \neg A \in \\ \hline \neg M & M \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Diluting M

$A \in$ can't be accepted by relativists

Which/basis for choice of authority?

↳ People may have different competency in thinking:
should he be the authority?

↳ "an authority": gets CA for savings; for reliable guidelines, he gives reasons.

"is authority": teacher expects obedience; X says O;
no further question.
received by relativists

Author: Dr. Piers Benn

Title: Ethics

Chapter: # 1, Authority & Relativism

Relative truth; what is it?

↳ What is true for me, may not be true for you.

↳ Given that truth is relative, then the statement

"Is moral relativism true" will also relatively be true.

→ Point they make: truth is absolute;

Moral truth is relative

viz the claim about reality "Moral relativity is true" is absolute

(b) moral claims e.g. "lying is wrong" is NOT absolute; it's relative.

Psychological aspects [here are ⇨ portrayed as] of Meta-Ethical stances

↳ Moral relativists are liberal about morality

→ Moral absolutist (who believe morality has absolute truth) are conservative.

Next idea: Holding the meta-ethical claim of moral relativism tends to become a normative claim. We'll show this.

We start with their stance (which is portrayed as a conclusion)

"No one system of morality is universal"

↳ Anthropologists show that across cultures, there's morality but what it entails is different normative claims

↳ Thus we may call it an observation or an empirical statement which in philosophy is called a "descriptive statement"

→ This statement becomes normative if you say one ought to follow the "norms of the culture".

→ To come from the descriptive to the normative statement, only the descriptive statement is used as a premise.

→ Relativism becomes a culture by itself;

Illustration: C_1 are cultures; Relativism $\in C_1$; If C_1 conflicts with C_2 , C_1 suggests there should be tolerance.Now C_1 can say either (i) Everyone should be tolerant ⇨ normative; no longer metaethical→ Imperial Relativism?: You're pushing influence (ii) C_1 should be tolerant ⇨ get suppressed by others; of culture too far; Moral ideas such as conservatism etc are given by descriptive statements; these maybe true or false like say in history. It doesn't mean the past doesn't exist. | eulogize other cultures; used as a stick to undermine my own value.

→ Contradictions of Relativism:

Example (1): Some community in Kerala had children that refused to sing the national anthem.

Example (2): Some community in U.S. won't accept educating their children in school after grade 8, whereas the law says till age 18 (or so) they must attend school.

Conclusion: 2 different cultures, a person maybe from.