

A CRITIQUE OF DEONTOLOGICAL THEORIES

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Deontological Theories ruminates on actions along with their respective principles. According to these theories "actions themselves are inherently good or evil, regardless to the consequences of actions." The rightness or wrongness of every action depends on the principles which is intrinsically prevailed in it. This is how the moral system of deontological theories rest on a set of principles. In other words deontological ethics is a rule driven system, with moral status contingent on adherence to principles. This shows that deontological ethical system have their locus on a set of rules or principles that inheriting actions. However these principles vary from theory to theory. Divine command Theory holds that the rightness or wrongness of an action depends on God's will, i.e, whatever action is affirmed by God's will it is considered as right action. On the other hand the action which is forbidden by God is a wrong action. This shows that according divine command theory actions are to be accorded with God's command. Act-deontological theories hold that "actions are moral or non-moral depending on the circumstances where they are carried on." Other deontological theories couple with non-aggression principles recommending no moral justification for the initiation of force against another person. These principles refrain from physical violence, extortion, abridgement of speech. Deontological libertarian such as Murray Rothbard is championed in this respect. It is obvious that it is possible for an action or a set of principles to be morally right or wrong even if it does not promote greatest possible balance of good over evil for self, society. Hence deontological theories seek to identify a supreme principle of morality independent of good, pleasure i.e, consequences of the actions.

The genesis of the term 'Deontology' has been carved out from two Greek words namely 'deon' means duty and logos means principles. So deontology literally speaks study of actions or duties, i.e, the rightness or wrongness of actions inherent in ethical principles. It is obvious that when we follow the moral principles we are acting morally but when we do not follow these principles we are acting immorally. Modern deontology has its root in the continental Europe. Rene Descartes of France was the first enlightened philosopher whose thoughts inspire the subsequent philosophers in the sphere of scientific and ethical inquisitiveness. However deontology in the form of Divine Command Theory has survived since the period of ancient Greece when the concept is addressed in Plato's 'Euthypro'. The debate resumed with medieval scholars like Thomas Aquinas to the age of renaissance and finally gave the way to the Kantian ethics in the 1700s.

The following key questions which the deontological moral system incorporates evinced below :

What is my moral duties?

What is my moral obligation ?

How do we differentiate on moral action again another ?

Answering the above questions different theories express their views in following manner.

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