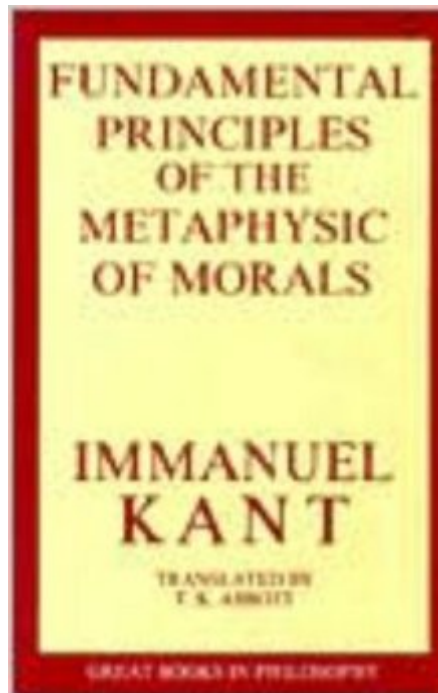


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Fundamental Principles Of The Metaphysics Of Morals (Great Books In Philosophy)



Synopsis

The nature and theoretical underpinnings of ethics have been an intellectual driving force animating the pursuits of great scholars. In *The Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals* (1785) Immanuel Kant, one of the most powerful philosophical minds of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, inquires into the true nature of morality. In rejecting the results or consequences of action as the foundation of moral judgments, he denies that good or bad effects have any relevance in the moral evaluation of human behavior. Instead, we must rely upon the Good Will for guidance. What is this Will upon which so much emphasis is placed, and how does it act as the foundation for behavior that can be assessed as truly moral? In this groundbreaking work, Kant outlines an ethical perspective that has been a vital force in the Western world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This short compendium is noteworthy in its pith. Kant can say an awful lot in a short book. To get the full value of this read, be sure to take plenty of notes and re read it in a few months when you have mulled the book over, perhaps talking to friends about it. There is one essential concept here and of course that is morals. How do we come by them and how do we distinguish them. In contemporary America, the most strident and vocal "moralists" will explain that it takes the acceptance of a personal God. Kant makes us look more closely at this concept. Essentially he distinguishes between a moral that has "ends". We do the right thing, perhaps even the noblest thing because of various ends. Those may include the good graces of others who admire your morality or the desire to avoid the shame of acting in an immoral fashion for two examples.

This book is a magnificent book. Kant's arguments are indisputable. His sophisticated philosophy is evidently clear and concise. It is a must read book for intellectuals, philosophers, and religious devotees.

Not bad for the price. This Digireads.com edition does show evidence of inattentive copy editing, generally restricted to substitutions of b for h ("band" where it should read "hand", "be" where it should read "he"), or an additional o in the word "to".

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