

Ethics Essay Proposal

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In the groundwork for the metaphysics of morals Kant makes the claim that “free will and a will under moral laws are the same” (4:447). This claim implies that when one is not subscribing to moral laws one is not truly free. It is in itself a very difficult idea to come to grips with, for even when acting immorally we feel as though we are doing so of our own volition and not of some other force. This is a very important claim for Kant because it offers a very strong incentive to lead a morally good life. If people naturally desire to have free will and the will is only free under moral laws then Kant does not need to provide ample reasoning why one should adopt his formula for a morally good, and free, life.

In my essay I plan to address the question of whether or not Kant’s claim that “free will and will under moral laws are the same” is sound. If it is the case that free will is not synonymous with a will under moral laws I will address the ramifications that will have on Kant’s general moral theory.

Bibliography

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