

Reason and emotions. The role of emotions in moral action in the contemporary Kantian ethics

In the history of philosophy the prevailing belief was that rationality is the essence of humanity and emotions are something external in human being. In extreme versions of this approach emotions were treated as an external element and rather disturbing our rational functioning and thereby as an obstacle in morality. Immanuel Kant is traditionally believed to be the main representative of rationalism understood in such a way, but a lot of current interpreters of Kantian ethics try to show that in Kant's moral system emotions play an important, positive role. The least radical interpretations only assume that emotions aren't the enemy of morality in ethics of philosopher from Königsberg. The moderately radical interpretations say that emotions can support moral action. The most radical interpretations of Kant's ethics assume that emotions have intrinsic, moral value. The aim of my thesis is to prove that at least the part of such interpretations goes along with main assumptions of Kant's moral philosophy.