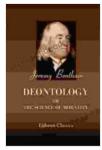
## Deontology: An Exploration of the Science of Morality

Deontology is a branch of ethics that focuses on the study of duty and obligation. It is often contrasted with consequentialism, which focuses on the consequences of actions. Deontologists argue that certain actions are right or wrong in themselves, regardless of their consequences.

#### Deontology; or, The Science of Morality. In two



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#### The Foundations of Deontology

The foundations of deontology can be traced back to the ancient Greek philosophers Plato and Aristotle. Plato argued that there is a realm of perfect forms, including the form of the Good. He believed that human beings should strive to live in accordance with these forms. Aristotle, on the other hand, argued that the highest good for human beings is happiness, and that we should act in ways that promote our own happiness and the happiness of others. In the modern era, deontology has been developed by philosophers such as Immanuel Kant and John Stuart Mill. Kant argued that there is a universal moral law that is binding on all human beings. He believed that this law is based on reason, and that we should act in accordance with it even if it does not lead to the best consequences. Mill, on the other hand, argued that the principle of utility is the best guide for moral action. He believed that we should act in ways that maximize the happiness of all.

#### The Principles of Deontology

There are several key principles that underlie deontology. These principles include:

- 1. The Principle of Universalizability: This principle states that we should only act in ways that we can universalize. In other words, we should only act in ways that we would be willing to have everyone else act in.
- 2. The Principle of Non-Contradiction: This principle states that we should not act in ways that are contradictory. In other words, we should not act in ways that violate our own moral principles.
- 3. The Principle of Reversibility: This principle states that we should only act in ways that we would be willing to have others act towards us. In other words, we should treat others with the same respect that we expect them to treat us.

#### The Strengths and Weaknesses of Deontology

Deontology has several strengths, including its emphasis on duty and obligation. Deontologists argue that we have a moral duty to act in accordance with the moral law, even if it does not lead to the best consequences. This emphasis on duty can help us to make difficult moral decisions, even when we are tempted to do what is easy or expedient.

However, deontology also has some weaknesses. One of the main criticisms of deontology is that it can be too rigid. Deontologists often insist that there are certain actions that are always wrong, even if they would lead to the best consequences. This rigidity can make it difficult to apply deontological principles to real-world situations.

Deontology is a complex and challenging ethical theory. It raises important questions about the nature of morality and the role of duty in moral decision-making. While deontology has its strengths and weaknesses, it remains an important ethical theory that has influenced moral philosophy for centuries.

#### **Additional Resources**

Deontology

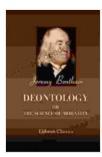
(Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy)

Deontological Ethics

(Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy)

Deontology vs. Utilitarianism

(The Utilitarian Website)



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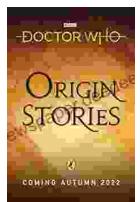
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