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PHI 101 NLSB

For Kant what role does duty play in his moral theory? Morality not really about outcome or results

I'm not sure how to answer this but what I got from the reading is that acting on duty, even if it's right, but not sincere is not moral. It reminded me of the way I was raised to "respect my elders" and I had this one nasty, mean aunt but I was always told to "be nice" even though she was so mean to me. I did it out of duty but I didn't want to be nice to her. Eventually, as I got older I asked my dad "why? She's not nice to me, or to you so why do I have to be so nice?" He had no answer and from that point forward I stopped being fake nice to her. I was never disrespectful or rude but I didn't go out of my way to fawn over her with fake affection. And you know what happened? She actually started being nicer to ME. So doing something out of duty can be seen as right or moral but if it's not sincere it's not really moral and ultimately God knows that. However, I can also say that teaching children things out of duty does build a strong moral character. Like holding the door for strangers – it's a good thing to do even when others will let it slam in your face but I think it's important to teach children moral behavior because of DUTY because as they get older good habits will be formed and then as adults we can decide more clearly how we want to be.

For mill what makes an action moral?

Mill states that it's the action and the results it produces that make it moral. Namely he thinks that the actions that are better for all of society are the right choices.

Better to be Socrates dissatisfied than a fool satisfied.

I think this means that the higher we try and elevate ourselves in understanding the better off we will be. To be ignorant and use that as an excuse for immoral behavior doesn't do society on a whole, any good at all.