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Hume's moral theory: Is he a utilitarian?

Toshinari MIZUNO

According to many philosophers, for example, Geofferey Sayre-McCord, Bernard Wand, John Leslie Mackie, and Christine Swanton, Hume's moral theory is non-utilitarian. Other philosophers, such as Frederick Rosen, Stephen Darwall, Roger Crisp, and Jordan Howard Sobel, hold that Hume's moral theory is utilitarian.

I confirmed that Hume's moral theory has both utilitarian and non-utilitarian aspects, and proposed an interpretation that consistently captures both aspects. First, a certain quality of mind is approved by a spectator as virtuous. The criterion of approval by the spectator is to *either* be useful to others or to the person herself, or be agreeable to the other or to the person herself. Second, a quality of mind that is agreeable to others or to the person herself is approved because it brings about happiness to others or happiness to the person herself, as a quality of mind that is useful to others or to the person herself. Then virtue is, after all, the quality of mind that produces happiness. I refer to this interpretation as "two layer character-utilitarianism."