Justice

The Moral Side of Murder

Extra info

1. Doing the Right Thing

Cases
1. trolley car with broken break and two tracks: kill 5 vs turn and kill just 1
2. trolley car on bridge: kill 5 vs punch one fat man and he will die but will save 5
3. doctor saving 5 vs 1
4. doctor who can save 5 patients by killing one healthy person

MORAL REASONING
- Consequentialist – locates morality in the consequences of an act
- Categorical – locates morality in certain duties and rights

Two types of moral reasoning

Moral reasoning
- **Consequentialist** — locates morality in the CONSEQUENCES OF AN ACT
  - the most influential example — **Utilitarianism**
    - invented by - Jeremy Bentham
    - the right thing to do is to maximize the utility
- **Categorical** — locates morality in certain DUTIES AND RIGHTS
  - it is categorically wrong to kill one innocent person for the sake of many
  - the most important philosopher - Emmanuel Kant

Two warnings!
- 👍 Philosophy teaches a new way of seeing things that we have known before
  - by making strange settings
  - 🚨 But this knowledge can not be unknown again
- 👍 Become more responsible citizens, or worse
  - 🚨 But philisophy distances us

2. The Lifeboat Case

Utilitarianism by Jeremy Bentham — Maximizing utility — The greatest good for the greatest number

Case: starving lifeboat crew killed and it cabin boy to save their lives
- 👎 They decided that their lives are more important than other's - this is the root cause for all the crime

Questions
- ⚠️ 1. Do we have certain fundamental rights? — e.g. right to live
- ⚠️ 2. Does a fair procedure justify any result? — Would lottery make it morally permissible to kill?
- ⚠️ 3. What is the moral work of consent? — Would victim's consent make a moral difference?