

Friday, November 22, 2019

Wade Williams, Journal Entry 4, *The Categorical Imperative*

It was hard to decipher Kant's use of language, and I had a hard time deciphering some of it. But I did gather a few of the main ideas from Kant's writing, and I agree with his ideas. It is unjust to take advantage of someone, and use them as merely a mean to get what you desire. The simplified account of Kant's ethics by Onora O'Neill definitely helped me increase my understanding of Kant's writing, and also brought up an interesting idea. Each day, humans use each other as means to accomplish tasks each day. I particularly like the example of the bank teller and the customer. I experienced this same scenario today. I as a bank customer, use the teller as a means to distribute a deposit in my account. The teller uses me as a means to make a living by providing me a service. This kind of situation is not unjust in the sense Kant was describing using humans as mere means, but it is a mutual understanding that the bank teller and I are each gaining something by using each other as means. It is unjust, in the situation where a man who knows he cannot pay back loans, requests loans to achieve money, and takes advantage of the lender who does not know that he cannot pay back the loan. This kind of selfish act causes harm to the lender, and many other people that are directly or indirectly related to the lender and the person taking advantage of the lender. This act of using another human as mere means is unjust, and I agree with Kant's view.