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Ethics Chapter 5 Review

1. State and explain the basic idea of the principle of utility or the greatest happiness principle. The principle of utility is a utilitarian idea or principle that states that we ought to do whatever it takes to produce the greatest amount of happiness for the greatest amount of people. It aims to make any action produce pleasure for as the greatest number of people. It may not be possible to make everyone happy due to varying cultures, beliefs, and wants. But the greatest happiness principle, in short, aims to make as many people happy as possible.
2. What does it mean to speak of utilitarianism as a consequentialist moral theory? Utilitarianism focuses on the consequences of actions. Unlike egoism, utilitarianism focuses on the consequences for all people affected by actions instead of one. When we evaluate any human action or practice, we ignore the motive and the nature of the act or practice. It is the result -or consequence- that matters morally.
3. What is the difference between intrinsic and instrumental good? Give examples of each. Instrumental and intrinsic goods or values both aim at attaining happiness, but in different ways. Instrumental goods are useful as tools or means toward a good. Instrumental goods are money, fame, food, clothes, etc. They all make us happy because of their high worth. Intrinsic goods have value in themselves and not as tools or means. Intrinsic values are happiness and pleasure because they will always be good no matter what.