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The Study of Ethics A Syllabus

By John Dewey

CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 150 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.3in. An excerpt from the beginning of CHAPTER I. NATURE OF ETHICAL THEORY. Section I. Subject-matter Of Ethics: SUBJECT-MATTER of ethical theory is judgment concerning the value of conduct. Three stages. (1) Practical encouragement and discouragement of certain acts. Reward and punishment primary forms of such judgments. Next stage, urging and restraint through speech. (See Plato, *Protagoras*, 325-26.) Third stage, reflective judgment as to reason for such acts. Ethical theory is simply (1) a systematic judgment of value. The way is prepared for this through the fact that primitive judgments relate not to isolated acts, but to habits of action, and to the types of character which are disposed to induce those habits. Necessary spontaneous generalizations. Codes, customary and legislative. Demand for more systematic generalization arises when, through an extension of the area of life, former habits begin to conflict with each other. Illustrated by Athenian life; by Roman; by modern since the Renaissance. Ethical theory is thus (2) a critical judgment upon conduct. Not systematic in the sense that it simply catalogues previous judgments, but in the...



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