

FORMULATIONS (FORMULAS) OF THE CATEGORICAL IMPERATIVE [USING DENIS'S ABBREVIATIONS]

1. The three (five) formulas

A. *Universal Law* (FUL): Act only on that maxim whereby you can at the same time will that it become a universal law (81)

Ai. *Universal Law of Nature* (FUL/N): Act as if the maxim of your action were to become by your will a universal law of nature (81).

B. *Humanity* (FH): So act as to treat humanity, whether in your own person or in that of any other, in every case at the same time as an end, never as a means only (88).

C. *Autonomy* (FA): the idea of the will of every rational being as a will giving universal law (90) [this statement is not in "categorical imperative" form but it implies that form]

Ci. *Kingdom of Ends* (FKE): All maxims ought, by their own legislation, to harmonize with a possible kingdom of ends as with a kingdom of nature (not stated explicitly until 96 but discussed starting p. 90).

2. We want to know several things about *each* of these formulations separately, and the concepts involved in each one:

- a. How does Kant derive each of the formulations? What is his argument for them?
- b. How does Kant understand the concepts, and how they fit together
- c. How did Kant understand the formula/formulation operating as the supreme moral principle, especially in relation to the examples he gives to illustrate it? [We looked at this systematically in class with the Formula of Universal Law (FUL/N)]
- d. How do *we* understand the concepts Kant uses in the formula, and is this understanding different in some way from Kant's?
- e. Do we agree that the formulation/formula in question operates in the way Kant thought it did, to generate the various actions, principles of action, and judgments of rightness and wrongness of maxims and principles that he thought?

3. How do the different formulas relate to each other:

- a. Do they all say the same thing, just in different ways? And is this what Kant thinks?
- b. Do the formulations all yield the same moral judgments? [They could do that without meaning the same thing, just as deontology and consequentialism sometimes yield the same moral judgments yet they are very different ideas.]

Looking at all the formulations taken together, they rely on at least these key concepts, so we want to know how these are seen by Kant as relating to each other:

Rationality

Universality

End-in-itself

Humanity

Dignity

Kingdom of ends

Autonomy