

What use is Moral Philosophy?

A.303/5

Project No: 00525/3020
Duration: 24'27"
Production by: Patricia Hodgson

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Linked to correspondence text for units 11 - 12,
"Moral Philosophy", and unit 13 "Moral Education".
Open University Press 1973. Price

Professor Godfrey Vesey introduces a discussion between Professor Richard Hare, University of Oxford, and Dr. Anthony Kenny, Balliol College, Oxford, on the nature of moral reasoning. Professor Hare wrote two books, "The Language of Morals" and "Freedom and Reason", to explore the meaning of the concepts commonly used in moral debate and so to evaluate the force of our moral values. Dr. Kenny attacks the definition of moral values as both universal and prescriptive as inadequate, and argues that Hare's description of value gives more information about himself than about the nature of the world.

Title: Moral Philosophy.

CU A303/05

Tape No. 6HT/70829

Project No. 00525/3020

Producer: Patricia Hodgson

O.U. film no.

Contributors: Godfrey Vesey

Date Recorded.

R.M. Hare.

1st TX. 2.5.1973

A.J.P. Kenny

Form VTR

Duration 24'33"

Class nos. 170

Summary: The state of modern moral philosophy and the modern moral philosophers' concern with language is discussed.

RWW

Seq.	Time.	Footage.	Sequence List.	Sound Cue
1	2.03	35	Godfrey Vesey introduces the programme and and describes the modern concern of moral philosophers with language.	...Balliol College Oxford.
2	6.33	101	Kenny asks Hare to define his position. Hare does so, describing himself as a prescriptivist and summarising very briefly the main themes of his book 'The language of morals'.	Professor Hare, before..... ...on these properties
3	13.28	192	Kenny, using a table, repeats what he believes to be Hare's position and then proceeds to question Hare as to whether his (Hare's) characterization of moral statements is totally fair or complete.	Well, both these bookscouldn't reason with them.
4	21.43	291	Kenny poses the question that to talk of morality in the formal semantic way that Hare suggests poses the problem of the point of discussing morality. Hare replies. Kenny continues by explaining the difference between prescriptivist and descriptivist, and those between absolutist and consequentialist moralities. He then asks Hare to define his position more fully. Hare replies.	If you restrict.... ...myself doing it
5	24.13	319	Kenny comes back to the question of moral beliefs and asks if Hare's moral statements are in effect anything more than reflections of Hare rather than universalisable statements.	I'm interested that.. ...much Professor Hare
	24.23	320	Credits	