

Abstract

The seemingly incongruent situation where we evaluate actions and make decisions based on formal criteria rather than intrinsic moral qualities can be explained as a situation where we evaluate actions or make decisions based on experiences that are in fact aesthetic. We may call these situations manifestations of the aesthetic criterion of morality. Experiences of, for example, beauty are thus confused with moral goodness. The aim of this thesis is to analyse this situation and to prepare the ground for its anthropological investigation, primarily by elaborating the anthropological and philosophical literature on ethics and aesthetics, and to a lesser extent by analysing some model examples.