

Abstract

More than two hundred years ago David Hume together with his fellow philosopher Adam Smith posited, that ethical behaviour arises from so called: „moral sense“. In the other words, they share the same idea, that passions are principle evoking and guiding human behaviour. Hume claim: „*Reason is, and ought only to be the slave of the passions*“ (...). It is possible that this statement – among others - woke up from the 'dogmatic dream' one of the greatest philosophers of all time – Immanuel Kant, who propose, - contrary to Hume - that reason but not necessary passions can determinate human actions. In the question of what rule the passions in ethics have, it seems to be helpful to use the knowledge which follows from recent science. During this thesis we will use methods such as: comparison, analysis and synthesis.

Main aim of this thesis will be to deal with the following question: what relationship can be observed between empathy, „moral sense“ and ethical behaviour in perspective of recent science. This enquiry will therefore try to deal with the old question: what the the relationship between reason, passions and ethical behaviour is.