

P R E F A T O R Y N O T E

This work took unusually longer time to be completed as I remain outside the magic circle of the academics. Yet, as good luck would have it, the project is over, and the dissertation is now submitted for evaluation.

In course of drafting the dissertation I have been sustained emotionally and otherwise by various persons and friends, I owe a great deal to them, and do hereby gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to them.

I have been admiring R.M. Hare as a moral philosopher ever since my Post-Graduate days. But my admiration has always been of a sort of critical estimation of the important work that Hare has done in Ethics.

I decided to take up a couple of problems that emerge from Hare's position as a moral philosopher. I have taken, for example, his position in relation to Naturalism, his thesis and version of universalizability, his views about the levels of moral thinking, etc. I do not propose to give a detailed account of Hare's moral philosophy, but I have tried to outline his development as a moral thinker through three of his basic works, The Language of Morals, Freedom and Reason, and Moral Thinking. I must confess that I learnt a lot from Hare's critics, but all the while I have endeavoured to be fair and honest to the best of my humble capabilities. As an outcome of my study of Hare's moral

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philosophy I developed a certain inclination towards viewing the issue between facts and values, and it is with this idea that I have devoted myself to look at the matter from my own point of view.

Phillipa Foot has been one of the early critics of Hare, and appropriately I suppose, I have one Section on examining her ideas about Hare's position. Hare's greatest contribution, at least so it seems to me, has been to have given a new slant to the problem of universalizability. I have discussed the issue in two chapters. One dealing with Kant's notion of universalizability and the other dealing with Mackie's attack on the thesis. There abounds many other problems in Hare's writings, but those mentioned above have been enough for being my cups of tea.

I should like to put on record my gratefulness to my Supervisor for his kindness and courtesy. It is but for him that I could complete the project while living and working in a non-academic domain.

I owe much to my wife, Rama, and my son, Tunkai, for bearing with my moods approvingly. My parents would be happier if I succeed in my venture, and that should be for me a matter of great satisfaction.

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I have been luckier to have genial association and encouragement of Dr Ladli Roy and his wife, Mrs Rama Roy. And Miss Gouri Sen has been of immense help and saved many a trouble by her timely advice. Ever since I embarked on the project Dr Ratnabali Roy has been keenly interested in my work. I owe her much by way of friendship and warmth of goodwill.

The members of the academic staff have been cooperative. I thank them all sincerely.


(Gitangsu Kar)