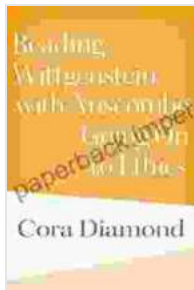


Reading Wittgenstein With Anscombe Going On To Ethics

In the realm of philosophy, few encounters have been as fruitful and thought-provoking as that between Ludwig Wittgenstein and G.E.M. Anscombe. These two towering figures, separated by a generation and a vast intellectual landscape, engaged in a philosophical dialogue that would forever alter the course of ethics and the philosophy of language.

Wittgenstein, the enigmatic Austrian philosopher, is widely regarded as one of the most influential thinkers of the 20th century. His groundbreaking work on language and meaning, particularly his magnum opus "Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus," challenged the very foundations of traditional philosophy.



Reading Wittgenstein with Anscombe, Going On to Ethics

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 903 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 329 pages

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Anscombe, a British philosopher and moral theologian, was a brilliant and independent thinker who made significant contributions to ethics,

philosophy of mind, and metaphysics. Her work, deeply influenced by Wittgenstein's ideas, sought to bridge the gap between philosophical inquiry and practical living.

Wittgenstein and Anscombe on Language and Meaning

At the heart of Wittgenstein and Anscombe's philosophical dialogue lay a shared concern with language and meaning. Wittgenstein argued that the limits of language are the limits of our understanding. According to him, many philosophical problems arise from our attempts to say what cannot be said, leading us into a labyrinth of linguistic confusion.

Anscombe echoed Wittgenstein's views on language, emphasizing the importance of clarity and precision in philosophical discourse. She believed that ethical language, in particular, must be carefully scrutinized to avoid misleading or meaningless statements.

The Ethical Significance of Language

Wittgenstein and Anscombe's insights into language had profound implications for ethics. Wittgenstein argued that ethical statements are not factual claims that can be verified or falsified. Instead, they are expressions of our values and commitments, akin to exclamations or commands.

Anscombe took this idea further, arguing that ethical concepts such as "good" and "evil" are not abstract notions but are rooted in our concrete experiences and practices. She emphasized the importance of understanding the meaning of ethical terms through their use in ordinary language.

Ethics and the Limits of Understanding

Wittgenstein and Anscombe also explored the limits of our understanding when it comes to ethics. Wittgenstein famously stated that there are certain things that cannot be said, including the nature of the good life. He believed that ethical questions ultimately transcend the boundaries of language and rational inquiry.

Anscombe concurred with Wittgenstein's view, suggesting that ethics is more akin to art or religion than to science. She argued that ethical knowledge is not something that can be acquired through abstract reasoning alone but must be cultivated through experience, contemplation, and practical wisdom.

Virtue and Human Flourishing

Despite their skepticism about the limits of our understanding, both Wittgenstein and Anscombe believed in the importance of living a meaningful and virtuous life. Wittgenstein emphasized the value of clarity, honesty, and authenticity in human relationships.

Anscombe expanded on Wittgenstein's ideas, developing a rich account of virtue ethics rooted in the concept of human flourishing. She argued that a good life is one that is lived in accordance with our nature as rational and social beings, pursuing activities that contribute to our well-being and the well-being of others.

A Journey Through Ethics

Reading Wittgenstein with Anscombe is an invitation to embark on a philosophical journey that explores the fundamental questions of ethics and the nature of human existence. By engaging with their ideas, we can gain a

deeper understanding of the limits of our language, the significance of our actions, and the pursuit of a meaningful life.

This article has provided a brief overview of the profound insights offered by Wittgenstein and Anscombe on ethics, language, and human existence. To delve further into their philosophical dialogue, I highly recommend reading the following works:

- "Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus" by Ludwig Wittgenstein
- "Investigations" by Ludwig Wittgenstein
- "Intention" by G.E.M. Anscombe
- "Virtue Ethics" by G.E.M. Anscombe

May these works inspire you to continue your own exploration of the philosophical landscape, seeking wisdom and meaning in the words of two of the greatest minds of the 20th century.



Reading Wittgenstein with Anscombe, Going On to Ethics

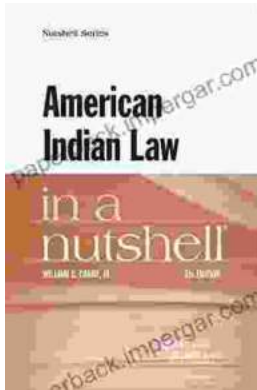
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