

DEVELOPMENT & EVOLUTION OF MORALITY

The philosopher cannot avoid asking himself whether or not there is an inherited moral sense, whether adult morality is any different from child morality, at what point in evolution did morality emerge, and what if any have been the selective pressures that have brought about moral judgment. He cannot skirt these questions but he cannot answer them, for they call for empirical data as well as hypotheses concerning development and evolution. Indeed, the whole problems of the (individual) development and the (phylogenetic) evolution of morality is a scientific problem. But the solutions to both problems are bound to have a strong impact on philosophy, in particular

on the (bad) habit of philosophers to make pronouncements about what is right (or fair or just or good) regardless of the stage of development or the/biocultural evolution.

L. Kohlberg (1969) holds that there are six stages in the development of the pers/^{on}'s morality: the premoral stage, hedonism, conformism, righteousness (law and order), internalization of social contracts, and principled morality (guided by the Golden Rule). The last two stages are attained, if at all, at age 13 or later. A. Bandura and J. Aronfreed have investigated the possible mechanisms (by reward and punishment) of acquisition of moral rules and suggest that conditioning/and imitation (of peers and adults) are the most important. All three investigators have substantiated their views with experiments. Their research is summarized in their contributions to David A. Goslan, Ed., Handbook of Socialization Theory and Research (Chicago, Rand McNally and Co., 1969).