Groundwork Section II

1. The Basic Structure of GMS II

1. Preliminaries (406.5–412.25)

1. Length

The concept of duty is not an empirical concept
Moral value depends on an agent’s maxims
Moral scepticism is unfounded
The moral law originates in pure practical reason
Examples/models in morality have dubious value
True and spurious popularity in moral philosophy
The primacy of metaphysics

2. Rational Agency and Imperatives (412.26–420.17)

2. The will: act according to a representation of the law
Imperative defined
Imperfect wills are necessitated by imperatives
Perfect wills are not so necessitated
Hypothetical and categorical imperatives

Problematic, assertoric, apodictic imperatives
Skill (Geschicklichkeit): problematic imperatives
Prudence (Klugheit): assertoric imperatives
Morality (Sittlichkeit): apodictic imperatives
These types necessitate the will in different ways
How are all these imperatives possible?
3. The Categorical Imperative (420.18–424.37)

(i) The (general) formula of universal law (FUL)

(ii) The law-of-nature formula (FLN)

Duties: to oneself and to others, perfect and imperfect

First example: suicide

Second example: false promises

Third example: developing one’s talents

Fourth example: beneficence

The canon of moral judging

Transgressions of duty

4. Towards the Metaphysics of Morals (425.1–427.18)

Summary

Warning: morality does not derive from human facts

A precarious standpoint

Warning: avoid the empirical

The moral law relates to the rational will as such

5. The concept of an end in itself (427.19–430.27)

Ends (Zwecke) as objects of the rational will

Humans (and rational beings) are ends in themselves

(iii) The formula of humanity as end in itself (FH)

The four examples reconsidered

6. Autonomy (430.28–433.11)

From FUL and FH: the idea of self-legislation

The universally legislating (gesetzgebend) will

Complete detachment from interests

Unconditional practical principles

The principle of the autonomy of the will
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- Autonomy is the ground of (human) dignity 70

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2. The Various Formulations of the Moral Law

The First Formula

FUL  
*Formula of the Universal Law.* ‘Act only in accordance with that maxim through which you at the same time can will that it become a universal law.’

421.7–8, see 402.8–9

Variation:

FLN  
*Formula of the Law of Nature.* ‘Act so as if the maxim of your action were to become by your will a universal law of nature.’

421.18–20, see also 424.1, 431.9, 431.25, 436.16, 437.17, 462.36

The Second Formula

FH  
*Formula of Humanity.* ‘So act that you use humanity, in your own person as well as in the person of any other, always at the same time as an end, never merely as a means.’

429.10–2, see also 428.9, 433.26, 436.19, 437.28, 438.4

The Third Formula

FA  
*Formula of Autonomy.* ‘… the idea of the will of every rational being as a universally legislating will’

431.16–8, 432.3, 432.12, 432.20, 434.10, 437.36, 438.1, 438.21, 440.18, 444.30, 447.3, 447.10

Variant:

FRE  
*Formula of the Realm of Ends.* ‘Act according to the maxims of a member universally legislating for a merely possible kingdom/realm of ends.’

439.1–3, see also 436.24, 438.18

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