

The Value of Friendship and Perfecting Goods

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چکیده

Close friendships may be instrumentally valuable. But for many, that is not enough. Moral theory must be able to account for an intrinsic value in maintaining close friendships as well. Moralists, such as Nancy Sherman and Laurence Thomas, argue that genuine friendship possesses intrinsic moral value because it consists of shared activities that partially constitute human flourishing. For them, any relationship that results in moral corruption cannot qualify as a genuine friendship. Conversely, amoralists, such as Dean Cocking and Jeanette Kennett, contend that genuine friendship can be morally corrupting for one or both individuals involved. It is commonly assumed that, for amoralists, if friendship has intrinsic value, its value must be non-moral. In this talk, I challenge this assumption. Against the moralist position, I propose that genuine friendship can indeed involve moral corruption. Against the amoralist view, I maintain that friendship remains an intrinsic moral good despite this possibility. To explain this, I introduce the concept of "perfecting goods," an axiological category accounting for values such as autonomy, freedom, and friendship. I argue that this concept allows us to explain the status of friendship as an intrinsic moral good which, under certain conditions, could be morally corrupting.

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