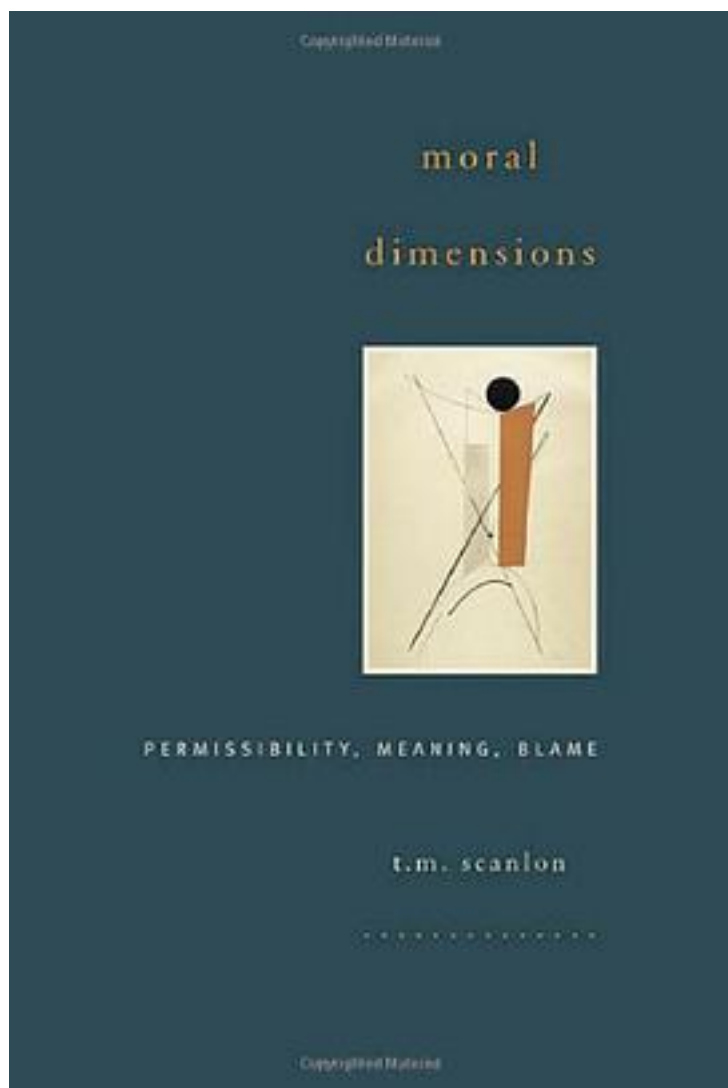


Moral Dimensions



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著者:T Scanlon

出版者:Harvard University Press

出版时间:2008-9-9

装帧:Hardcover

isbn:9780674031784

In a clear and elegant style, T. M. Scanlon reframes current philosophical debates as he explores the moral permissibility of an action. Permissibility may seem to depend on the agent's reasons for performing an action. For example, there seems to be an important moral difference between tactical bombing and a campaign by terrorists - even if the same number of noncombatants are killed - and this difference may seem to lie in the agents' respective aims. However, Scanlon argues that the apparent dependence of permissibility on the agent's reasons in such cases is merely a failure to distinguish between two kinds of moral assessment: assessment of the permissibility of an action and assessment of the way an agent decided what to do. Distinguishing between these two forms of assessment leads Scanlon to an important distinction between the permissibility of an action and its meaning: the significance for others of the agent's willingness to act in this way. An action's meaning depends on the agent's reasons for performing it in a way that its permissibility does not. Blame, he argues, is a response to the meaning of an action rather than its permissibility. This analysis leads to a novel account of the conditions of moral responsibility and to important conclusions about the ethics of blame.

作者介绍:

托马斯·斯坎伦 (Thomas M. Scanlon, 1940-), 美国著名道德哲学家, 哈佛大学自然宗教学与道德哲学奥尔福德教授, 已故美国哲学大师、伦理学巨匠约翰·罗尔斯的得意门生, 继罗尔斯之后道德契约主义的当代代表人物; 曾任哈佛大学哲学系主任、美国哲学学会东部分会主席; 与托马斯·内格尔一起创办了著名哲学刊物《哲学与公共事务》(Philosophy and Public Affairs) 并担任该刊的副主编。主要代表作有: 《宽容之难》、《我们彼此负有什么义务》。

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书评

1. <The Illusory Appeal of Double Effect>

斯坎伦在第一章的开头指明该章探讨的核心内容。这个核心内容就是，一个行为的道德评价是如何依赖于行为者的意图，并且与之相关的双重效应理论是如何被人所自然地接受的。斯坎伦在论述双重效应理论的同时又对其做出了细致而尖...

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