

An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation

By: Jeremy Bentham

This is a summary of one of the texts written by Jeremy Bentham in year 1789. In this text, the author wishes to emphasize Utilitarianism and a brief Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislations.

Jeremy Bentham is a philosopher who lives in the period where the changes in the political and economic perspectives is inevitable. This was during the American, French, and Industrial revolution- where the government is more focused on the development of machineries than on the welfare of the people. During those days, he was able to come up with a theory of Utilitarianism which he developed to express the need for social reform that would address the call of those people who belongs to the lowest point of the triangle.

“Nature has placed mankind under the governance of two sovereign masters” which are pain and pleasure, Bentham says. This could mean something personal, that he may speak about his inner self, his conditions, and how those conditions affected him. It may be that he has a subjective perception of what it means to be human. On the other hand, there is this belief that an individual would try to avoid suffering to achieve joy instead because these feelings are all subjective and we can feel the same way even in the midst of suffering.

In this particular text, it seeks to explain that utility is whenever a belonging or a property causes benefits or advantages to its owner and use it as an avoidance from all the misfortunes and happiness. For example: If a party is that particular community, then it will be the happiness of a community. The same goes for the individuality. On the other hand, the principle of utility seeks to have the judgment whether the beliefs under it can be approved or not.

The interest of the community, and who or what is included in this community means that a community is like a one body that is being composed by several people. The sum of interests of an individual will be composed as one and shared it to its community.

Pleasures and the avoidance of sufferings are goals in here and it is necessary to understand their importance. Pleasures and pains are the instruments with which it must work into; it is therefore required to grasp the force, which is the gain or value.