

# An Evaluation of Kantian Deontological Theory and Approach from the Perspective of Islamic Ethics

Mohammad Amin Khansari\*

---

## Abstract

Deontology is considered to be one of the most challenging well-known theories in the field of ethics. Being a traditional rival to utilitarianism, deontology has constantly been defined as opposed to the consequentialist theories. It has been acknowledged by many theorists that Immanuel Kant - the famous German philosopher – provided the most prominent account of deontology. This account has been explored and criticized from different standpoints, and it seems essential to critically assess it in terms of the foundations of Islamic ethics. Employing a critical analytical method and using library sources, especially transferred ones about Islamic ethics, this study aims to elaborate the different constituents and aspects of Kantian theory, and to weigh it up according to the doctrines and foundations of Islamic ethics. Although Kantian theory demonstrates a variety of significant capabilities and advantages, it pursues an absolutist and radically rationalist approach which has raised serious objections and challenges. It seems implausible at least to the advocates of religious ethics that morality cannot justifiably depend upon religion. This claim is regarded as the most significant drawback of Kant's moral theory while there are some other presuppositions and assertions in it which are seen as wrong by other thinkers.

## Keywords

Normative ethics, deontology, moral deontology, Immanuel Kant, Islamic Ethics, morality's dependence on religion, categorical imperative.

---

\* PhD and Researcher in Theoretical Ethics Department, Quran and Hadith University, Qom, Iran. | ma.khansari@gmail.com

