

Book Review: Contemporary Moral Problems

Chapter 4: Mary Midgley, "Trying out one's new sword"

Quote:

"...A samurai sword has to be tried out because, if it was to work properly, it had to slice through someone at a single blow, from shoulder to the opposite flank. Otherwise, the warrior bungled his stroke. This could injure his honour..."

Learning Expectation:

I wish to understand how one can talk about others culture without really experiencing it.

Review:

Almost all the people now tends to judge other people, and to criticize other whom they don't even know. That's why discriminations are common now. I'm fascinated with the anthropologist that stayed for two weeks in the remote area. He learned from his experience how to cope and to be with the ancestral cultures. He somehow defended that we should not criticize other cultures without us knowing about theirs. If you are in that situation, you too should watch out for your actions that you might provoke them to hurt you. And you should be extra careful and you should respect what they do and how they act.

For me, learning other cultures through experience is the best experience you can have. You can mingle and chat with other people and you get to know other informations that you usually taken for granted for. At one time, I went to a place where I can't understand their language. I kept quiet and try to understand what they are talking about, and from my listening to them, I understand some of their talks and I got excited to what they are talking about. They were talking about how to cure some wounds without the modern medications. From that experience I learned how to cure some mild. Thanks to them I learned a new technique to cure wounds.

Lessons Learned:

If you are in different areas, you should be careful in what you do and what you say, because some people just snap out of the blue without you noticing it. Never talk bad to people you don't know or you don't understand. Try to get well with others if you are in different places. You'll never know what to expect when you are there.

Integrative Questions:

Is moral isolationism that bad?

Why do you have to criticize others if you can just ignore?