

# Contents

CHAPTER 1	THE SUBJECT MATTER OF ETHICS	1
1.	The philosopher and the preacher	1
2.	The philosopher as a policeman	3
3.	Reduction in philosophy	5
4.	The command and the emotive theory in ethics	7
5.	What is meta-ethics?	10
6.	Ethical relativity	10
7.	Is meta-ethics at all possible?	14
CHAPTER 2	ETHICS AS THE LOGIC OF VALUE WORDS	15
1.	The logic of grading labels	15
2.	Grading and classification	17
3.	The purpose of grading	17
4.	The purpose of classification	19
5.	Is there any difference between the purpose of the grader and the purpose of the classifier?	20
6.	The narrow sense of grading	20
7.	The subjective element in grading	21
8.	Is there any similar narrow sense in classification?	22
9.	Grading of men and of men's actions	22
10.	Moral arguments for rejecting the analogy of grading	23
11.	Conclusion	24
CHAPTER 3	THE LOGIC OF MORAL ARGUMENT	25
1.	The language of morals	25
2.	The problem of choice and the function of prescriptive language	26
3.	Moral discourse and moral teaching	28
4.	Consistency as a moral virtue or as a fundamental logical rule of value language	30
5.	Morals as a rational activity	31

6.	Is the language of morals a special kind of prescriptive language?	34
7.	Linguistic philosophy and old problems of ethics	36
CHAPTER 4	THE AUTONOMY OF THE LOGICAL ARGUMENT	37
1.	The place of reason in ethics	37
2.	Validity and truth	39
3.	Is Toulmin's argument circular?	41
4.	Genuine contradiction in moral arguments	43
5.	The ethical judgement	46
6.	The contrast between scientific judgements and ethical judgements	47
7.	Good reasons in ethics	47
8.	Conclusions	49
CHAPTER 5	LANGUAGE AND THE FUNCTION OF ETHICS	51
1.	Meta-ethics as a second order activity	51
2.	Is meta-ethics only a myth?	53
3.	The price of restoring rationality to ethics	54
4.	The clash of values in meta-ethics	57
5.	Rationality must not be discovered where it is not, it should be introduced where it can be introduced	59
6.	Some ambiguities in the use of "moral", "rational" and "conscious"	60
7.	Ethics as a practical science	61
8.	What makes a situation moral?	62
9.	What is a moral situation?	62
10.	Moral meaning and purpose	65
	Bibliography	70
	Index of Names	73