

DEREK PARFIT

On What Matters: Volumes I & II, OUP (2011)

(see: “Morality tale,” by Simon Blackburn, available at <http://www.ft.com>, August 6, 2011)

- From the Kantian tradition (one that talks of rigid duties and principles), Parfit draws the idea of principles that could be universally willed.
- From a modern follower of Kant, Thomas Scanlon, Parfit draws the idea of principles that nobody could reasonably reject.
- From the utilitarian tradition (one that talks of costs and benefits), Parfit draws the idea of principle whose universal acceptance would make things go best.

“An act is wrong just when such acts are disallowed by some principle that is optimific, uniquely universally willable, and not reasonably rejectable.”