德福一致与宗教伦理

"When the Good Suffer and the Evil Prosper"

- A Challenge for Religious Ethics

关启文 香港浸会大学 Guan Qiwen Hong Kong Baptist University

[英文提要]

The fact that good people often suffer and evil people often prosper generates a problem for morality. Immanuel Kant believes that only the postulate of God can resolve this problem. However, the defenders of the autonomy of ethics resist this move and argue that morality must stand on its own feet. In this paper, I argue that those defenders have exaggerated the autonomy of ethics. I also defend the plausibility of the Kantian argument. I further discuss the issue of moral motivation from the perspective of religious ethics. I argue that the dichotomy between moral and non – moral motives is too simplistic and we need a theory of the stages of moral motivation, which can be provided by religious ethics.

一个认真追寻美善的人必然曾为这问题感到困惑:为何道德的要求会带来痛苦呢?为何德行与幸福不一定一致?为何正如广东人的俗语所云:"杀人放火金腰带,修桥补路有尸骸",作好事的不一定有好报,坏事作尽的却可享福?为何世界和社会好像很不公平呢?对一个只有今生、没有来世的世俗主义者或自然主义者,德福不一致就是最终的事实;但对宗教伦理而言,德福不一致只是表象,因为一个深层次的道德秩序会确保德福最后会一致,这道德