

MORAL INSTINCT: DARWIN ON

The Descent of Man (1871). N. Y.: Collier, 1902.

. D regards the moral sense or conscience as "the most noble of all the attributes of man" and seems to identify it with altruism, or a wish and readiness to help fellow-animals--not all the individuals of the same species, only those of the same "association" ^{or community.} Other places: same as a feeling of right or wrong

. The moral sense is to D a social instinct and as such inherited rather than acquired (as he emphasizes against Mill).

. Evolution: "any animal whatever, endowed with well marked social instincts, the parental and filial affections being here included, would inevitably acquire a moral sense or conscience, as soon as its intellectual powers had become as well, or nearly as well, developed as in man" (p. 135).

. Being instinctive, the moral sense does not require deliberation or consciousness. "On the contrary, we all feel that an act cannot be considered as perfect, pr as performed in the most noble manner, unless it be done impulsively, without deliberation or effort" (p. 152). But whether or not there has been deliberation or calculation, we rank all actions of a certain class as moral, if performed by a moral being. "A moral being is one who is capable of comparing his past and future actions or motives, and of approving or disapproving of them " (p. 152).

Inv 83080
F1 101