

## RESPONSIBILITY DEPENDENT ON KNOWLEDGE AND INTENTION

If a friend accepts my invitation to ride in my canoe, and the latter capsizes and he drowns, then I am responsible for his death only if I was not an expert paddler or he was not a good swimmer. Indeed, if I knew that my friend was a poor swimmer and I was aware of my shortcomings as a paddler, then it was sheer irresponsibility on my part to invite him. Moreover, the same holds if I did not make sure of either ability. That kind of responsibility is usually called moral, and it is clearly dependent on knowledge. Criminal responsibility is moral responsibility together with criminal intention. Since knowledge and intentions are both a matter of degree, so responsibility is a matter of degree, to such an extent

that it is often difficult to draw a line between moral  
and criminal responsibility.