

PHILOSOPHY
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Berezina E.M. Altruism and mercy

The research has presented the philosophically-ethical analysis of altruism and mercy. Altruism is comprehended as an effective limiter of egoism, by-turn, egoism (in any socially-philosophical interpretation, including “reasonable egoism”) may be an initial cause for altruistic intentions appearance. Different objects of altruistic aspirations (“the closest”, “strange” or “distant”) define the difference of its forms: abstract and morally-psychological. In New European philosophical tradition *mercy* and *altruism* are interpreted as a synonyms. Nevertheless the commandment of love is considerably more than person’s altruistic attitude, it covers also moral love (the awe) and self-perfection. Within the context of present analysis mercy is the highest form of altruism, when “Another” is equal and (anyway) the closest to the individual. So “Another” is accepted as a value of his or her self.

Key words: altruism, mercy, egoism, empathy, moral love.

Perm state

institute of art and culture

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