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PRINCIPLES OF DOUBLE EFFECT AND MORAL SYMMETRY AND LEGALIZATION OF EUTHANASIA

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In this essay I scrutinize importance of Principles of Double Effect and Moral Symmetry in regard to the question of moral acceptance of euthanasia legalization. My conclusion is that although there is no substantially moral difference between passive and active euthanasia, the problem of morally justifiable legalization of euthanasia is still not resolved. That is because some reasons suggest the possibility of special discrepancy between moral acceptability of euthanasia in certain cases and moral demand to preserve legal prohibition of euthanasia in general. In the paper I criticize the popular opinion that utilitarianism cannot account of why we give weight to the question of moral permissibility of intentions. I claim that contrary to this false platitude utilitarianism can even accommodate practical relevance of Principle of Double Effect, but not as a valid per se principle.