

KANT

CRITIQUE OF PURE REA

Philosophy 5

IMMANUEL KANT

CRITIQUE OF PURE REASON

TRANSLATED BY
NORMAN KEMP SMITH



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TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE

THE present translation was begun in 1913, when I was completing my Commentary to Kant's 'Critique of Pure Reason.' Owing, however, to various causes, I was unable at that time to do more than prepare a rough translation of about a third of the whole; and it was not-until 1927 that I found leisure to revise and continue it. In this task I have greatly profited by the work of my two predecessors, J. M. D. Meiklejohn and Max Müller. Meiklejohn's work, a translation of the second edition of the Critique, was published in 1855. Max Müller's translation, which is based on the first edition of the Critique, with the second edition passages in appendices, was published in 1831. Meiklejohn has a happy gift-which only those who attempt to follow in his steps can, I think, fully appreciateof making Kant speak in language that reasonably approximates to English idiom. Max Müller's main merit, as he has very justly claimed, is his greater accuracy in rendering passages in which a specially exact appreciation of the niceties of German idiom happens to be important for the sense. Both Meiklejohn and Max Müller laboured, however, under the disadvantage of not having made any very thorough study of the Critical Philosophy; and the shortcomings in their translations can usually be traced to this cause.

In the past fifty years, also, much has been done in the study and interpretation of the text. In particular, my task has been facilitated by the quite invaluable edition of the *Critique* edited by Dr. Raymund Schmidt. Indeed, the appearance of this edition in 1926 was the immediate occasion of my resuming the work of translation. Dr Schmidt's restora-

tion of the original texts of the first and second editions of the *Critique*, and especially of Kant's own punctuation—so very helpful in many difficult and doubtful passages—and his citation of alternative readings, have largely relieved me of the time-consuming task of collating texts, and of assembling the emendations suggested by Kantian scholars in their editions of the *Critique* or in their writings upon it.

The text which I have followed is that of the second edition (1787); and I have in all cases indicated any departure from it. I have also given a translation of all first edition passages which in the second edition have been either altered or omitted. Wherever possible, this original first edition text is given in the lower part of the page. In the two sections, however, which Kant completely recast in the second edition-The Transcendental Deduction of the Categories and The Paralogisms of Pure Reason—this cannot conveniently be done; and I have therefore given the two versions in immediate succession, in the main text. For this somewhat unusual procedure there is a twofold justification; first, that the Critique is already, in itself, a composite work, the different parts of which record the successive stages in the development of Kant's views; and secondly, that the first edition versions are, as a matter of fact, indispensable for an adequate understanding of the versions which were substituted for them. The pagings of both the first and the second edition are given throughout, on the margins-the first edition being referred to as A, the second edition as B.

Kant's German, even when judged by German standards, makes difficult reading. The difficulties are not due merely to the abstruseness of the doctrines which Kant is endeavouring to expound, or to his frequent alternation between conflicting points of view. Many of the difficulties are due simply to his manner of writing. He crowds so much into each sentence, that he is constrained to make undue use of parentheses, and, what is still more troublesome to the reader, to rely upon particles, pronouns and genders to indicate the connections

between the parts of the sentence. Sometimes, when our main clue is a gender, we find more than one preceding substantive with which it may agree. Sometimes, also, Kant uses terms in a gender which is obsolete. Certain terms, indeed, he uses in more than one gender. Thus, even in regard to so important a philosophical term as *Verhāltniss*, he alternates between the feminine and the neuter. But even when these and other difficulties, inherent in the original German, have been overcome, there remains for the translator the task, from which there is no escape, of restating the content of each of the more complex sentences in a number of separate sentences. To do this without distortion of meaning is probably in most cases possible; and indeed I have found that, by patient and careful handling, even the most cumbrous sentences can generally be satisfactorily resolved.

Certain sentences, however, occurring not infrequently, present the translator with another type of problem: how far he ought to sacrifice part of what is said, or at least suggested, to gain smoothness in the translation. There are sentences which, to judge by their irregular structure and by the character of their constituents, must have owed their origin to the combination of passages independently written and later combined. In the "four to five months" in which Kant prepared the Critique for publication, utilising, in the final version, manuscripts written at various dates throughout the period 1769-1780, he had, it would seem, in collating different statements of the same argument, inserted clauses into sentences that were by no means suited for their reception. In such cases I have not attempted to translate the sentences just as they stand. Were the irregularities retained, they would hinder, not aid, the reader in the understanding of Kant's argument. The reader would not, indeed, be able to distinguish between them and possible faultiness in the translator's English. Nor would it be practicable to retain them, with the addition of explanatory notes; the notes would have to be too numerous, and would be concerned with quite trivial points. The irregularities

that are thus smoothed out may, it is true, be of considerable importance in the detailed study of the composite origins of the *Critique*, and of the stages in the development of Kant's views. But even in this connection, they are valueless save when studied in the *ipsissima verba* of the original German. In the translation itself nothing is being sacrificed that is materially worth retaining.

My chief personal obligations are to Dr. A. C. Ewing. In 1927, while I was still hesitating whether I could find time and energy to complete the translation single-handed, he kindly consented, upon my appealing to him, to try the experiment of collaborating in a joint-translation. We soon found, however, that to arrive at a uniform translation involved so much mutual consultation as hardly to be practicable. But though I am alone responsible for this translation, Dr. Ewing has very generously given me assistance at every stage in the work. He has read the whole translation both in manuscript and in proof; and I have greatly benefited by his comments and criticisms. I am also indebted to him for preparing the index.

My friends Dr. R. A. Lillie, Mr. R. D. Maclennan, and Mr. W. G. Maclagan have done me the service of reading the proofs. To Dr. Lillie I am especially indebted for the kindly rigour with which he has refused to accept excuses when my sentences would seem to be needlessly cumbrous.

In a careful final revision of the translation I have found a number of errors, major and minor; and I fear that others must have remained undetected. Should students of the *Critique*, in using this translation, discover any, I shall be grateful if they will report them to me.

NORMAN KEMP SMITH.

EDINBURGH, October 1929.

In revising the translation for this impression I have been aided by some very helpful criticisms from Professor H. H. Joachim and Professor H. J. Paton. N. K. S.

EDINBURGH, March 1933.

TABLE OF CONTENTS'

										PAGE
TITLE	PAGE	of Fir	ST ED	ITION	(in repl	ica)	•	•	•	I
TITLE	PAGE	of Se	COND	EDITIO	N (not	in rep	lica)	•		3
Мотто				•		•		•		4
DEDICA	ATION	•			•	•		•		5
Prefac	CE TO	First	EDITIC	N .		•	•			7
PREFA	CE TO	SECON	D EDIT	NOI			•			17
TABLE	of Co	NTENT	s of F	IRST I	EDITION		•			39
INTROD	UCTIO	Ν.		•		•		•		41
I. T	he Dist	inction	betwee	en Pur	e and E	mpiric	al Kno	wledge		41
II. W					in Mode Indersta					
	them	*	•	•	•		•	•	•	43
III. P	Possib	ility, tl			of a So and th					
	Know			•	•	•	•	•	•	45
					llytic an	•		•		48
V. Ir					of Rea		yntheti	c a pr	riori	
W T					e Reaso		•	•	•	52
2 (E.S. 10)		reservicio		E1170 125 - TECT 1	- 1010-2010-0	m=:			•	55
VII. I			Pure R		Special •	·	e, una	er the	title.	58
I.	TRA	NSCE	NDEN'	TAL I	DOCTR	INE	OF EL	EME	NTS	
FIRST	Part.	TRANS	CENDE.	NTAL A	Aesthe	TIC				65
Intro	duction	n.		•			•		•	65
Secti	on I. S	Space	٠	•		•	•		•	67
Secti	on 2. 7	Γime		•	•	•	•			74
Gene	ral Obs	servatio	ons on t	the Tra	anscend	ental A	estheti	с.		82
1 [T	his tabl	e of cor	ntents. v	vith a fe	w additi	ons refe	erring to	Section	ns om	itted.

¹ [This table of contents, with a few additions referring to Sections omitted, altered, or added in B, is the table given in B. The briefer table of A is given below on p. 39.]

x KANT'S CRITIQUE OF PURE REASON	
SECOND PART. TRANSCENDENTAL LOGIC	PAGE 92
Introduction. Idea of a Transcendental Logic	92
I. Logic in General	92
II. Transcendental Logic	95
III. The Division of General Logic into Analytic and Dialectic .	97
IV. The Division of Transcendental Logic into Transcendental	
Analytic and Dialectic	100
FIRST DIVISION. TRANSCENDENTAL ANALYTIC	102
Book I. Analytic of Concepts	103
Chapter I. The Clue to the Discovery of all Pure Concepts of	
the Understanding	104
Section 1. The Logical Employment of the Understanding in	
general	105
Section 2. The Logical Function of the Understanding in Judgments	106
Section 3. The Pure Concepts of the Understanding, or Categories	111
	•••
Chapter II. The Deduction of the Pure Concepts of Under- standing	120
Section 1. The Principles of any Transcendental Deduction	
	120
Transition to the Transcendental Deduction of the Categories	125
Section 2. Transcendental Deduction of the Pure Concepts of Understanding	120
Deduction as in First Edition	129
Deduction as in Second Edition	151
	- , -
Book II. Analytic of Principles	170
Introduction. Transcendental Judgment in General	177
Chapter I. The Schematism of the Pure Concepts of Under-	
standing	180
Chapter II. System of all Principles of Pure Understanding .	188
Section 1. The Highest Principle of all Analytic Judgments .	189
Section 2. The Highest Principle of all Synthetic Judgments	191
Section 3. Systematic Representation of all the Synthetic	
Principles of Pure Understanding	194
I. Axioms of Intuition	197

TABLE OF CONTENTS		хi
3. Analogies of Experience		PAGE 208
First Analogy. Principle of Permanence of Substance	·	212
Second Analogy. Principle of Succession in Time		212
accordance with the Law of Causality .	,	218
Third Analogy. Principle of Coexistence, in acco	ord-	
ance with the Law of Reciprocity or Community	•	233
4. The Postulates of Empirical Thought in general.	•	239
Refutation of Idealism	٠	244
General Note on the System of the Principles .	٠	252
Chapter III. The Ground of the Distinction of all Objects	in	
general into Phenomena and Noumena	•	257
Appendix. The Amphiboly of Concepts of Reflection .		276
Note to the Amphiboly of Concepts of Reflection .		281
SECOND DIVISION. TRANSCENDENTAL DIALECTIC	•	297
Introduction		297
I. Transcendental Illusion		297
II. Pure Reason as the Seat of Transcendental Illusion		300
A. Reason in General		300
B. The Logical Employment of Reason	•	303
C. The Pure Employment of Reason	•	305
Book I. The Concepts of Pure Reason		308
Section 1. The Ideas in General .		309
Section 2. The Transcendental Ideas	•	315
Section 3. System of the Transcendental Ideas	•	322
	•	5
Book II. The Dialectical Inferences of Pure Reason .	٠	327
Chapter I. The Paralogisms of Pure Reason		328
The Paralogisms as in First Edition		333
The Paralogisms as in Second Edition		368
Chapter II. The Antinomy of Pure Reason		384
Section 1. System of Cosmological Ideas		386
Section 2. Antithetic of Pure Reason	•	.5
First Antinomy	•	393 396
Second Antinomy		402
Third Antinomy	•	409
Fourth Antinomy	•	409

x ii	KANT'S CRITIQUE OF PURE REASON	
	Section 3. The Interest of Reason in these Conflicts	PAGE 422
	Section 4. The Absolute Necessity of a Solution of the Tran-	4
	scendental Problems of Pure Reason	430
	Section 5. Sceptical Representation of the Cosmological	
	Questions in the Four Transcendental Ideas	436
	Section 6. Transcendental Idealism as the Key to the Solution	
	of the Cosmological Dialectic	439
	Section 7. Critical Solution of the Cosmological Conflict of Reason with itself	443
	Section 8. The Regulative Principle of Pure Reason in its	443
	application to the Cosmological Ideas	449
	Section 9. The Empirical Employment of the Regulative	
	Principle of Reason, in respect of all Cosmological Ideas	454
	 Solution of the Cosmological Idea of the Totality of the Composition of the Appearances of a Cosmic Whole . 	
[II. Solution of the Cosmological Idea of the Totality of Division	455
	of a Whole given in Intuition	459
	Concluding Note and Preliminary Observation	461
1	II. Solution of the Cosmological Idea of Totality in the	
	Derivation of Cosmical Events from their Causes .	464
	Possibility of Causality through Freedom	467
	Explanation of the Cosmological Idea of Freedom .	469
I	V. Solution of the Cosmological Idea of the Totality of the	
	Dependence of Appearances as regards their Existence in general	479
	Concluding Note on the whole Antinomy of Pure Reason	483
	,	
C	hapter III. The Ideal of Pure Reason	485
	Section 1. The Ideal in general	485
	Section 2. The Transcendental Ideal	487
	Section 3. The Arguments of Speculative Reason in Proof of	
	the Existence of a Supreme Being	495
	Section 4. The Impossibility of an Ontological Proof of the	
	Existence of God	500
	Section 5. The Impossibility of a Cosmological Proof of the Existence of God	507
	Discovery and Explanation of the Dialectical Illusion in all	507
	Transcendental Proofs of the Existence of a Necessary	
	Being	514
	Section 6. The Impossibility of the Physico-theological Proof	518
	Section 7. Critique of all Theology based upon Speculative	
	Principles of Reason	525

	TABLE OF CONTENTS	XIII
	Appendix to the Transcendental Dialectic	532
	The Regulative Employment of the Ideas of Pure Reason .	532
	The Final Purpose of the Natural Dialectic of Human	
	Reason	549
	II. TRANSCENDENTAL DOCTRINE OF METHOD	
	Introduction	573
	Chapter I. The Discipline of Pure Reason	574
	Section 1. The Discipline of Pure Reason in its Dogmatic	
	Employment	576
	Section 2. The Discipline of Pure Reason in respect of its Polemi-	
	cal Employment	593
	Impossibility of a Sceptical Satisfaction of the Pure Reason that is in Conflict with itself	605
	Section 3. The Discipline of Pure Reason in respect of Hypotheses	612
	Section 4. The Discipline of Pure Reason in respect of its	
	Proofs	621
1	Chapter II. The Canon of Pure Reason	629
	Section 1. The Ultimate End of the Pure Employment of our	
	Reason	630
	Section 2. The Ideal of the Highest Good, as a Determining	
	Ground of the Ultimate End of Pure Reason	635
	Section 3. Opining, Knowing, and Believing	645
	Chapter III. The Architectonic of Pure Reason	653
	Chapter IV. The History of Pure Reason	666
	lndex	671

Critit ver reinen Vernunft

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Immanuel Rant

Professor in Ronigeberg.



Piga, verlegts Johann Friedrich Hartinoch

Kritik

der

reinen Vernunft

von

Immanuel Kant

Professor in Königsberg der Königl. Akademie der Wissenschaften in Berlin Mitglied

Zweite hin und wieder verbesserte Auflage