

The objective of the submitted research project is to extend the moral philosophy of Thomas Nagel, a representative of the contemporary rationalist tradition.

One of the most fundamental philosophical problems is the possibility of grounding ethics and morality in the sphere of reason, as well as establishing the relations between ethics as a theory and morality as a practice. Thomas Nagel, one of the most prominent contemporary philosophers, made a significant contribution to the ongoing discussion on this subject but his conception has some deficiencies and therefore it needs to be supplemented with additional elements.

He attempts to answer the question how it is possible to build ethics - a theory based on the discovery of the objective realm of reason, as well as to resolve the question of the possibility of morality - that is, actual acting in accordance with moral reasons. He successfully defends the objectivity of ethics by grounding it in the realm of reason. However, the problem of morality is broader than meta-ethical issues, as it encompasses the problem of motivation and the decision-making process. In Nagel's deliberations on motivation and the decision-making process there is no bridge between the realm of reason and actual acting according to reasons. Nagel shows formal conditions of practical reasoning and demonstrates that activity based on altruistic reasons is formally possible. However, he fails to give answers to two questions. The first issue concerns the descriptive level: what makes people actually behave morally? Formal conditions given by Nagel seem to be necessary but insufficient. The second question is both practical and normative: what should we do so that people are not only able to, but also willing to follow moral reasons?

Therefore, the research project is an attempt to enrich Nagel's conception with selected elements of Aristotelian virtue ethics. Such an attempt is justified, as this philosopher often refers to Aristotle, but his references are limited to the field of practical reasoning and he seems to ignore the Aristotelian conception of virtues. It will be proved that Nagelian model of motivation, which does not take into account the role of shaping appropriate attitudes and habits of conduct, is a model lacking essential elements. As a positive solution to the problem there will be proposed an approach which will interpret the Nagelian model of reconciling the internal and external standpoint in terms of virtue. The enrichment of Nagel's theory will be conducted on the basis of his premises and claims. It will allow to find the missing link between ethics as a theory and the practice of morality in the rationalist model proposed by Nagel as well as to demonstrate that the rationalist approach can coexist with elements of virtue ethics and may take into account the role of emotions in the decision-making process.

The theses included in the study propose a link between ethics and morality in the rationalist model. These proposals, covering issues of practical philosophy, can contribute to the development of philosophical thought, being a basis for discussion and widening the prospects for new solutions in ethics. They can also provide a theoretical basis for further studies, among others in pedagogy, which deals with upbringing and educational process.