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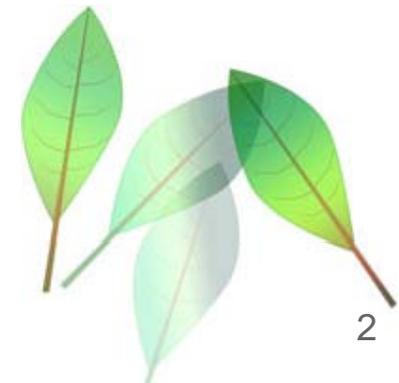
# Is Intention *sufficient* to explicate Collective Agency?

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**“...What is left over, if I subtract the fact that my arm goes up from the fact that I raised my arm?”**

**-:Ludwig Wittgenstein**  
*Philosophical Investigations*  
Translated by G. E. M. Anscombe  
1953, 621, P – 161



# The Pervasive Nature of Change

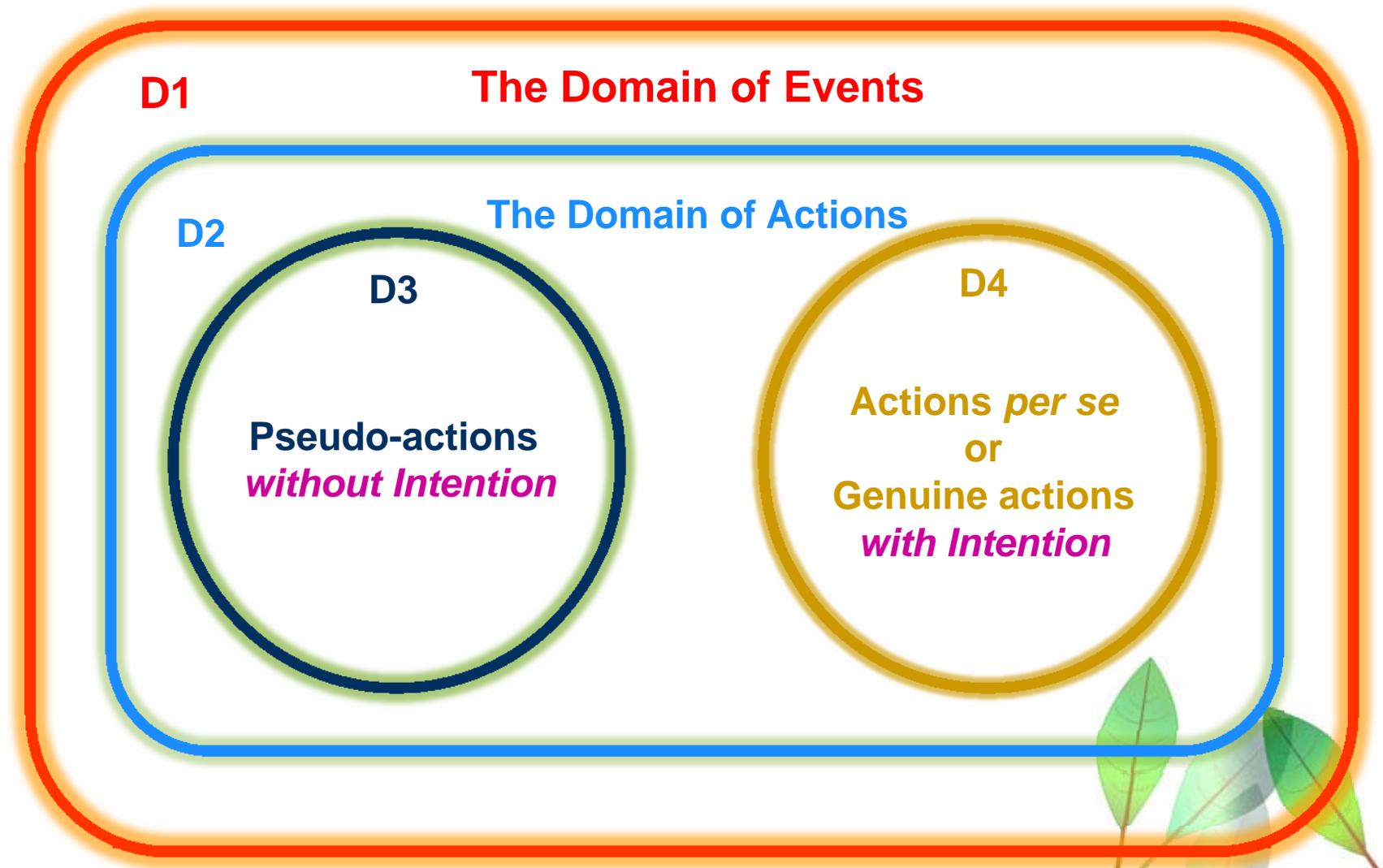
Except the change itself, which is not subject to change, every other things in this world is subject to change. At a particular time, it comes into being and at another particular time, it goes out of existence.

## Two types of changes across this world

- \* Changes that are *brought about* by *Human Being*  
i.e., a uncoerced, unconditional, purposive behavior being guided by a free and a self-motivational force within a human being
- \* Changes that are *caused* by *Natural Forces*  
i.e., a purely conditional happening being guided by the *Laws of Nature*, and thus available for *causal explanation*.

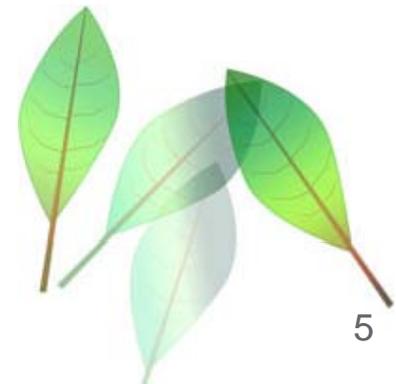


# $(\alpha \wedge \sim\alpha)$ The World of Changes $(\sim\alpha \wedge \alpha)$



# Intention: The Differentiating Mark

- ◆ That bisects the world of changes into two parts.
- ◆ That differentiates Actions from the Events.
- ◆ That keeps apart the mere bodily behaviors from the behaviors that makes an action possible.
- ◆ That draws a dividing line between the answerability and unanswerability.



# Continued...

- ◆ That keeps aside the agent and all the agential forms from all the form of non-agents and pseudo-agents.
- ◆ That produces more often moral or non-moral actions than *amoral* actions.
- ◆ Eventually, that shapes up an individual into a just individual or into a righteous person.
- ◆ Sometimes, Intention gets instantiated by some mental states like desire, pro-attitude, beliefs, predispositions etc.



# Collective Intention **behind** Collective Agency

- ⊕ **We** are **social beings** by the very existence.
- ⊕ Where we witness the **gregarious instinct** outrightly.
- ⊕ Performance of **Inter**-dependent actions, apart from doing his/her **In**-dependent actions.
- ⊕ Involvement in **Inter**-dependent actions by performing **In**-dependent actions.
- ⊕ By **sharing a public place** with others under a **common goal**.



# Continued...

- ⊕ Keeping individuality and individual goal(s) aside, plunging into **commonality**.
- ⊕ Becoming a part of that **shared intention** for the betterment of that group where he/she hails from.
- ⊕ So the shift from **I-Intention** to **We-intention** sprouts the idea of **collective agency**, where all the I-Intentions are merged into a whole/ single.
- ⊕ This collective intentional goal-directedness is a **necessary condition** for explicating collective agency.



# Intention and Collective Action

- # Distinction between Intending-to and Intending-that.
- # Individual autonomy vs. Collective autonomy.
- # Distributive conception of collective intention.
- # Instance of *seemingly* collective action where the collective intention is missing.
- # Instance of a group action which is guided by an individual intention – cannot be a collective action as there is no collective intention.



# Features of Collective Action

To evade the concept of collective intention from misuse, **M. Bratman** comes up with four features.

- # Members of the collective each intend that they engage in the intended action.
- # They each intend to do their part in this engagement.
- # They each believe that the other members intend to do their part as well.
- # Because of believing this, they each intend to do their part of the collective action.



# Continued...

Stressing more on **shared character of the members**, he proposes *three basic features* of shared character which is indispensable for collective intention.

- ① Mutual responsiveness to each other's intention and action.
- ② Commitment to the joint activity.
- ③ Commitment to mutual support in performing the joint activity.



# Joint Commitment

## Proposed by Margaret Gilbert (1989).

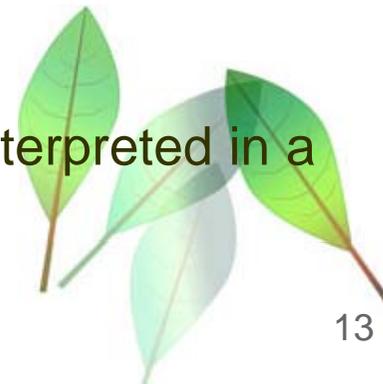
- ❖ Commitment is a **matter of will** to commit to oneself or to others.
- ❖ **Shift** from Individual commitment to Joint commitment.
- ❖ Plurality of individual wills intermingle to form **a single will**.
- ❖ Later, becomes a **single commitment** made by all of them, and are committed for the same intended goal.
- ❖ Members are **jointly committed** to one another.
- ❖ Each one is **supposedly obliged** to do his/her part of the action to make it the case that **they all act as a body**.
- ❖ It would necessarily invite **obligatory** or **normative considerations**.
- ❖ **Mutual reliance** and **expectation** would ensue from this commitment.



# Continued...

## Is normativity intrinsic or a matter of consequence?

- Account of Bratman, Gilbert, Davidson and Dennett.
- For Bratman, it is a matter of consequence, so it is contingent.
- For Gilbert, it cannot be contingent, rather it is intrinsic to collective action.
- For Davidson, normativity or rationality is constitutive of the idea of the intentional or mental.
- For Dennett, rationality in intentional behavior is interpreted in an epistemic or instrumental sense.



# Internal Evaluative Mechanism

- A phenomenological shift of stance from *individual evaluative mechanism* to *collective evaluative mechanism*.
- This collective evaluative mechanism is not conditioned or constrained by the external forces, rather by the *ideals of rationality* within that group.
- *Joint evaluative perspective* is to be framed judiciously by each member of the group.
- Try to *evaluate* the significance of the goal of their collective intention in the light of this mechanism.



# Continued...

- Take a course of *appropriate responsive behaviors* in regard to that envisaged end.
- *My* sense of concern and care for the desired end is for *our* sake, and is for my sake as well, because I feel myself *inalienably bound up* with the collective *we-identity*.
- Become *rationally beholden*, and also *answerable* for the result of *that* collective action jointly.
- Least fear for the unwanted outcome, and that makes all the members *fully devoted* towards that joint pursuit.



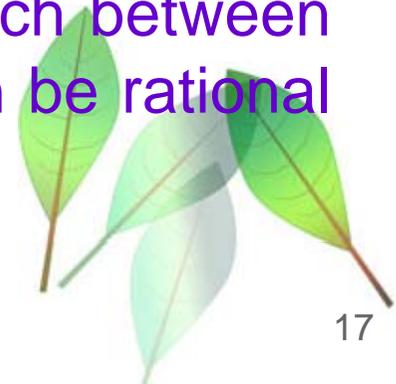
# Agential Ability

- # There should be a **reasonable match** between the content of the intention and agential ability to execute an action plan.
- # Intention and possibility are supposed to **go side by side**.
- # The collective intention **must be in line** with the possibility of executing the intention.
- # There **should not be a mismatch** between the intention and the capacity.
- # The collective agent i.e., **we** should realize the magnitude of the goal in relation to the standard agential limits.



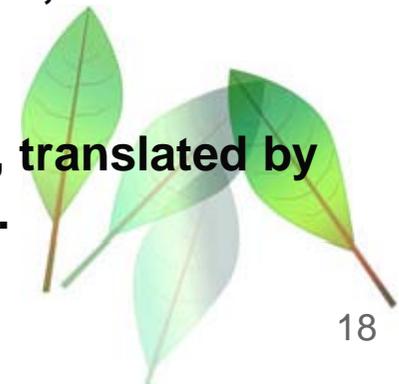
# Continued...

- # We should be **rationally self-confident** enough to execute an action plan.
- # That means **rationally we should fathom our agential ability**, before stepping into a course of action to realize the intended goal.
- # If the match between the agential ability and the intention stands to suffer due to **ailed foresight**, the grave failure will be obvious.
- # It is for sure that, **intention cannot be irrational**. It can only be rational.
- # So, there may be the possibility of mismatch between **desire** and **agential capacity**. Only desire can be rational or irrational.



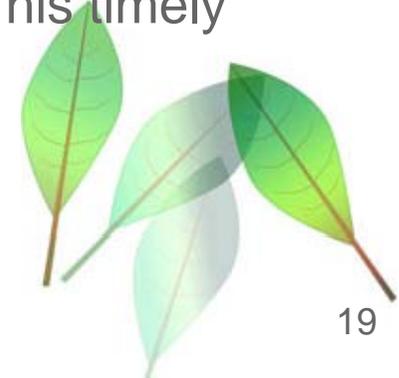
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A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and a reflection on the water. The sky is filled with dark, dramatic clouds. The text "Thank you" is overlaid in the center in a pink, outlined font.

Thank you