Utilitarianism (Illustrated)
John Stuart Mill’s book Utilitarianism is a philosophical defense of utilitarianism in ethics. Although Mill includes discussions of utilitarian ethical principles in other works such as On Liberty and The Subjection of Women, Utilitarianism contains Mill’s only major discussion of the fundamental grounds for utilitarian ethical theory. The essay is divided into five chapters, namely: 1. General Remarks; 2. What Utilitarianism Is; 3. Of the Ultimate Sanction of the Principle of Utility; 4. Of What Sort of Proof the Principle of Utility is Susceptible; and 5. On the Connection Between Justice and Utility. According to Mill, the mistake of other moral theories, including Aristotle’s, is that all systems are based on the principle of utility, but other moralists were blind to this fact. Mill’s principle of utility is the true principle of morality and human nature and makes it possible for the greatest number to have the greatest happiness.