

The Ethics Of Aquinas

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in this comprehensive anthology twenty seven outstanding scholars from north america and europe address every major aspect of thomas aquinas s understanding of morality and comment on his remarkable legacy while there has been a revival of interest in recent years in the ethics of st thomas no single work has yet fully examined the basic moral arguments and content of aquinas major moral work the second part of the summa theologiae this work fills that lacuna the first chapters of the ethics of aquinas introduce readers to the sources methods and major themes of aquinas s ethics the second part of the book provides an extended discussion of ideas in the second part of the summa theologiae in which contributors present cogent interpretations of the structure major arguments and themes of each of the treatises the third and final part examines aspects of thomistic ethics in the twentieth century and beyond these essays reflect a diverse group of scholars representing a variety of intellectual perspectives contributors span numerous fields of study including intellectual history medieval studies moral philosophy religious ethics and moral theology this remarkable variety underscores how interpretations of thomas s ethics continue to develop and evolve and stimulate fervent discussion within the academy and the church this volume is aimed at scholars students clergy and all those who continue to find aquinas a rich source of moral insight

this element provides an account of thomas aquinas s moral philosophy that emphasizes the intrinsic connection between happiness and the human good human virtue and the precepts of practical reason human beings by nature have an end to which they are directed and concerning which they do not deliberate namely happiness humans achieve this end by performing good human acts which are produced by the intellect and the will and perfected by the relevant virtues these virtuous acts require that the agent grasps the relevant moral principles and uses them in particular cases

the far reaching changes in man s social and personal life taking place in our lifetime underline the need for a sound ethical evaluation of our rights and duties and of human behaviour both on the individual level and in the political society on many issues judgments of value vary widely and a consultation of the thought of thomas aquinas on the basic questions will be

helpful the more since he is not only one of the greatest philosophers but also succeeded in integrating in his moral philosophy the wisdom of the ancients in particular of aristotle and the stoa this book presents aquinas s thought on such central questions as man s happiness how to determine the morality of our actions the natural law and the main virtues as well as on the common good war human labour love and friendship throughout the book the intellectual character of this moral philosophy is pointed out and problems are set in a historical perspective

is aquinas s *sententia libri ethicorum* an interpretation of aristotle based on principles of christian ethics or do we have in that work a presentation of the foundation of aquinas s moral philosophy professor doig answers these questions through an examination of the historical context within which the *sententia* was composed in chapters 1 2 the work s role as a corrective of earlier commentaries is established chapter 3 by examining philosophy at paris between 1215 and 1283 reveals that the proposal by aquinas of a moral philosophy would have been unexceptional chapter 4 s investigation of the principles underlying the moral theory of the *sententia* makes apparent that they were regarded by aquinas as both philosophical and aristotelian the date to be assigned the composition of the *sententia* is studied in chapter 5 and the conclusion is drawn that with some probability the *sententia* is its author s final proposal of moral doctrines the closing chapter offers a summary of that moral philosophy against the historical background brought out earlier

this work places thomas aquinas s moral theory in its full philosophical and theological context in a way that makes aquinas accessible to students and interested general readers

this volume explores the ethical dimensions of a wide selection of philosophical and theological topics in aquinas s texts it covers topics central to ethics such as happiness moral virtue and natural law as well as related topics pertaining to the metaphysical basis of aquinas s account of goodness the ramifications of his ethical concerns for his philosophy of language and the significance of his philosophical psychology for his ethics

thomas aquinas was a man with a strategy not a strategy to assist us in good decision making or a strategy to help us resolve our problems of conscience but a strategy to work toward our personal transformation in light of god s love for us aquinas has traditionally been represented as a man whose ethics are overly rational excessively formal and too scholarly to be of much use in contemporary society the primacy of love gives us a fresh look at his ethical thought and invites us to become part of his vision of the moral life as partners in god s perfect love author paul wadell gives special attention to the role of the passions affections and emotions in our moral life and creates a richly humane and compelling study written in a clear and accessible style the primacy of love is a modern map for our own moral journey that is not so much something to study but a way of life in which to participate to follow this journey is to take up an adventure that will involve you from the center of your being and will change you forever

st thomas is not only the king of theologians but the prince of moralists and it has seemed a pity that his own words on matters of daily practice should have been so long inaccessible to the english reader technical latin is not attractive to those who are unversed in it and the student of ethics might be easily bewildered by the large admixture of speculative theology in the summa in this translation the separation of ethics from theology has been carried out in the main and the english has been made as simple as the subject matter permits this is volume two out of two and a translation of the principal portions of the second part of the summa theologica including more than four hundred endnotes

first published fifteen years ago ethica thomistica is widely recognized as one of the finest introductions to st thomas s moral philosophy though the book has been out of print for several years scholars and students still refer to it as the standard resource on thomistic ethics in this much anticipated revised edition ralph mcinerny revisits the basics of thomas s teachings and offers a brief intelligible and persuasive summary chapters morality and human life the good for man ultimate end and moral principles the structure of the human act good and evil action character and decision prudence and conscience religion and morality about the author ralph mcinerny is michael p grace professor of medieval studies and director of the jacques

maritain center at the university of notre dame where he has taught since 1955 he is founder and publisher of catholic dossier magazine cofounder of crisis magazine and author of several books published by cua press including aquinas on human action 1992 the question of christian ethics 1993 and aquinas and analogy 1996 praise for the book remarkable for its moderation and common sense mcinerny rapidly sketches selected themes from thomistic moral thinking what distinguishes the moral activities of man what is distinctive of moral goodness in aristotle and in aquinas an analysis of practical reason in relation to natural law the bases for judging good and evil moral actions the roles of intellect and will in voluntary activity the work of virtues as components of moral character the functions of prudence and conscience and finally the relation of ethics to religious belief for the person who desires a quick and understandable introduction to this subject this little book can be recommended as readable and reliable vernon j bourke speculum an important contribution both to moral philosophy and to its teaching mcinerny has put us all in his debt by writing it alasdair macintyre teaching philosophy a clear thorough and readable introduction to the thought of one of the intellectual giants of the catholic moral tradition national catholic register

thomas aquinas devoted a substantial proportion of his greatest works to the virtues yet despite the availability of these texts and centuries of commentary aquinas s virtue ethics remains mysterious leaving readers with many unanswered questions in this book pinsent argues that the key to understanding aquinas s approach is to be found in an association between a attributes he appends to the virtues and b interpersonal capacities investigated by the science of social cognition especially in the context of autistic spectrum disorder the book uses this research to argue that aquinas s approach to the virtues is radically non aristotelian and founded on the concept of second person relatedness to demonstrate the explanatory power of this principle pinsent shows how the second person perspective gives interpretation to aquinas s descriptions of the virtues and offers a key to long standing problems such as the reconciliation of magnanimity and humility the principle of second person relatedness also interprets acts that aquinas describes as the fruition of the virtues pinsent concludes by considering how this approach may shape future developments in virtue ethics

most of us wonder how to make sense of the apparent moral excellences or virtues of those who have different visions of the good life or different religious commitments than our own rather than flattening or ignoring the deep difference between various visions of the good life as is so often done this book turns to the medieval christian theologian thomas aquinas to find a better way thomas it argues shows us how to welcome the outsider and her virtue as an expression rather than a betrayal of one s own distinctive vision it shows how thomas driven by a christian commitment to charity and especially informed by augustine synthesized augustinian and aristotelian elements to construct an ethics that does justice in love to insiders and outsiders alike decosimo offers the first analysis of thomas on pagan virtue and a reinterpretation of thomas s ethics while providing a model for our own efforts to articulate a truthful hospitality and do ethics in our pluralist globalized world

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by developing a philosophical reconstruction of the moral philosophy that underlies the secunda pars of the summa theologiae of thomas aquinas jean porter illuminates aquinas theory of morality and shows its relevance to contemporary christian ethics

although st thomas aquinas famously claimed that his summa theologiae was written for beginners contemporary readers find it unusually difficult now amid a surge of interest in virtue ethics j budziszewski clarifies and analyzes the text s challenging arguments about the moral intellectual and spiritual virtues with a spotlight on the virtue of justice in what might be the first contemporary commentary on aquinas s virtue ethics he juxtaposes the original text with paraphrase and detailed discussion guiding us through its complex arguments and classical rhetorical figures keeping an eye on contemporary philosophical

issues he contextualizes one of the greatest virtue theorists in history and brings Aquinas into the interdisciplinary debates of today his brisk and clear style illuminates the most crucial of Aquinas writings on moral character and guides us through the labyrinth of this difficult but pivotal work

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