



## The Shakespearean Ethic

By John Vyvyan

Shepherd-Walwyn (Publishers) Ltd, United Kingdom, 2012.  
 Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 212 x 136 mm.  
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 Originally published by Chatto Windus in 1959, this book has long been out of print and largely neglected by Shakespearean scholars. It offers a viewpoint seldom considered: an unusual and exceptionally clear insight into Shakespeare's philosophy. It does so with freshness, modesty and conviction. Appreciating the danger Shakespeare faced in writing at a time of major religious intolerance, Vyvyan shows how subtly the plays explore aspects of the perennial philosophy allegorically. In doing so, Shakespeare raises the fundamental question of ethics: What ought we to do? Shakespeare, says the author, is never ethically neutral. He is never in doubt as to whether the souls of his characters are rising or falling. There is a constant pattern in the tragedies: first the hero is untrue to his own self, then he casts out love, then conscience is gone - or rather inverted - and the devil enters into him. Vyvyan shows us this pattern of damnation, or its counterpart - a pattern of regeneration - working out...



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