

Virtues and vices, and other essays in moral philosophy

B. Blackwell - Philippa Foot, Virtues and Vices and Other Essays in Moral Philosophy

	Free markets encourage (encourage) virtues (vices)	Free markets discourage (discourage) virtues (vices)
	{<}0	{>}0
Virtues (Vices) decrease (increase) societal flourishing ({I-I})	Mandeville's hive model Flourishing vicious market society society	Stagnating virtuous market Flourishing virtuous market society
	{<}0 {>}0	{<}0 {>}0
Virtues (vices) increase (decrease) societal flourishing ({I>0})	Stagnating vicious market society	Flourishing virtuous market society
	{<}0 {>}0	{<}0 {>}0

Description: -

- Ethics -- Addresses, essays, lectures Virtues and vices, and other essays in moral philosophy

- Values and philosophical inquiry Virtues and vices, and other essays in moral philosophy

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Yet it is not anything goes. On this view of the virtues and vices everything is seen to depend on what human nature is like, and the traditional catalogue of the two kinds of dispositions is not hard to understand. In real life the certainties postulated by philosophers hardly ever exist, and Dudley and Stephens were rescued not long after their ghastly meal.

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But I can claim little consistency over the years in respect of one crucial problem in moral philosophy: that of the relation between practical rationality and moral virtue.

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Did the murderer, who certainly acted boldly, or with intrepidity, if he did the murder, also act courageously? It is also supposed that charity may lead a man to act badly, as when someone does what he has no right to do, but does it for the sake of a friend.

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Whether it's called ethical philosophy or casuistry which might carry pejorative connotations for some , Foot succeeds in illuminating the discussion of important ethical problems and issues in highly original ways. The judge, however, needs the death of the innocent man for his good purposes. No doubt this is the deepest source of our dilemma, but it is not the only one.

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