

EVERYDAY MORALITY

AN INTRODUCTION TO APPLIED ETHICS



Mike W. Martin

Second Edition

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CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

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Dedicated to Sonia Renée Martin and Nicole Marie Martin

Preface

This book is an introduction to applied ethics, that is, to the philosophy of morality as it applies to practical moral needs. It focuses on the moral concerns of everyday life more than on general social issues (although many of these are explored as well). Moral character is explored in all its dimensions: virtues, vices, attitudes, emotions, commitments, and personal relationships, in addition to right and wrong conduct.

Applied moral philosophy, as approached here, seeks to clarify, organize, and enrich our grasp of practical moral interests. It seeks to sharpen the ideas that we use as tools in coping responsibly with our daily lives. And it explores contrasting moral perspectives that increase moral understanding.

I have tried to maintain contact with the wellspring of common moral experience, or at least overlapping moral understanding, that enables us to discuss moral issues with one another. I have also attempted to heed Molière's injunction to "humanize your talk, and speak to be understood" (the counsel he offers to writers in *The Critique of the School for Wives*). The aim of this book is to stimulate personal reflection and group dialogue rather than to offer solutions. This remains true even in places where I set forth my own views instead of merely summarizing those of others.

The book contains twenty-three chapters organized by unifying themes into six parts. Numerous discussion topics and suggested readings are provided at the end of each chapter. Some of the readings discussed and recommended are works of literature and social science, reflecting the interdisciplinary approach present in much of the book.

Second Edition

Well over a third of the material in the second edition is new. Six chapters have been added on the topics of drug abuse, suicide and euthanasia, abortion,

interpersonal conflicts, the environment, and moral reasons. Several additional chapters have been extensively revised and reorganized. There are expanded discussions on many topics, including ethical relativism, egoism, self-respect, self-knowledge, authenticity, affirmative action, surrogate motherhood, and animals. All chapters contain some revisions, including fresh case studies, additional discussion topics, and updated bibliographies.

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Shannon Snow Martin shaped the book in many ways, suggesting topics and illustrations, discussing arguments and approaches, and providing insights. My students provided a valuable stimulus, as did my colleagues Virginia Warren and Joseph Runzo. Anita Storck displayed an array of virtues in helping with the typing and in contributing to a supportive work environment.

I received invaluable help from reviewers who provided comments that proved enormously helpful in improving the manuscript. For the first edition these reviewers were: Shane Andre, California State University, Long Beach; John Arthur, State University of New York at Binghamton; Joseph Des Jardins, College of St. Benedict; Ronald F. Duska, Rosemont College; Thomas K. Flint, North Idaho College; Ruth B. Heizer, Georgetown College; Craig Kei Ihara, California State University, Fullerton; Tom Moody, California State College, San Bernardino; Ellen K. Suckiel, University of California, Santa Cruz; and Joel Zimbelman, California State University, Chico.

For the second edition these reviewers were: Judith A. Boss, University of Rhode Island; Roger Ebertz, University of Dubuque; Michael S. Pritchard, Western Michigan University; Stephen Schwarz, University of Rhode Island; Hilquias Cavalcanti, University of Richmond.

I especially wish to thank my wife, Shannon Snow Martin, and my mother, Ruth Lochhead Martin, for their support and for their love.

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