

Contents

1 Introduction	1
References	7
2 Cartesian Meditation and the Pursuit of Virtue	9
2.1 Who Is the Cartesian Meditator? Four Proposed Answers	9
2.1.1 A Philosophically Naïve Person of Common Sense	9
2.1.2 A Skeptic	11
2.1.3 A Scholastic Aristotelian	13
2.1.4 An Amalgam of Personas	14
2.2 An Alternative Kind of Response: Rejecting the Question	15
2.2.1 Meditations in the Roman Catholic Contemplative Tradition	16
2.2.2 Meditations, the <i>Meditations</i> , and the Pursuit of Virtue	18
2.3 Conclusion	20
References	20
3 The Cartesian Framework	23
3.1 The Nature of Belief	23
3.2 The Proper Method of Belief Formation	28
3.2.1 The Method	28
3.2.2 Context and Limits	31
3.3 Conclusion	35
References	36
4 Morality as a Cosmopolitan Art	37
4.1 The Nature of Descartes's Morality	38
4.1.1 Is It a Science?	38
4.1.2 Is It Stoic?	40
4.2 The Application of Descartes's Cosmopolitan Art	47
4.2.1 Virtue	47
4.2.2 Moral Psychology	49

4.3	Conclusion	51
	References	52
5	Virtuous Belief Formation	53
5.1	Virtuous Enquiry	53
5.1.1	Foundational Enquiry	54
5.1.2	Ordinary Enquiry	58
5.1.3	Summary: Virtuous Enquiry	59
5.2	Virtuous Judgment	60
5.2.1	Judgment and Moral Appraisal	60
5.2.2	The Norm for Virtuous Judgment	62
5.2.3	Summary: Virtuous Judgment	64
5.3	Virtuous Belief Fixation	64
5.3.1	The Concern	65
5.3.2	Greater and Lesser Virtues	65
5.3.3	The Need for a Program	69
5.3.4	Summary: Virtuous Belief Fixation	69
5.4	Conclusion	70
	References	70
6	Virtue, Volition, and Judgment	73
6.1	Negative Direct Doxastic Voluntarism	75
6.2	Positive Direct Doxastic Voluntarism	78
6.3	Conclusion	80
	References	81
7	Natural Beatitude and Religious Reform	83
7.1	Changing the Question	83
7.2	A Second Pragmatic and Social Implication	85
7.2.1	The Supernatural Significance of Descartes's Morality	86
7.2.2	"Dangerous Doctrines"?	89
7.2.3	Descartes's Defense	91
7.2.4	The Reformatory Nature of Descartes's Program	92
7.3	Conclusion	94
	References	94
8	The Subversion of Traditional Christianity	97
8.1	Descartes's Morality and Traditional Christianity: <i>Theoretical</i> Differences	99
8.1.1	Beatitude and the Supreme Good in Descartes's Morality	99
8.1.2	Beatitude and the Supreme Good in Traditional Christianity	100
8.1.3	Summary of the Differences	106

8.2	Descartes's Morality and Traditional Christianity:	
	<i>Practical Differences</i>	107
8.2.1	The Pursuit of Virtue in Descartes's Morality	107
8.2.2	The Pursuit of Virtue in Traditional Christianity	108
8.2.3	Summary of the Differences	112
8.3	Descartes's Morality and Traditional Christianity:	
	Complementary or Inimical?	113
8.3.1	Human Nature and Human Flourishing	113
8.3.2	A Way of Life and an Art of Living	117
8.4	Conclusion	120
	References	120
9	Conclusion	123
9.1	Summary	123
9.2	Significance	125
	References	128
	Appendix: A Defense of Descartes's <i>DDV</i>	131
	Index	149