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## BOOK REVIEW

**Liezl Van Zyl, *Virtue Ethics: A Contemporary Introduction*, Routledge  
Taylor and Francis Group New York & London, 2019**

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This renowned comprehensive book that speaks about virtue ethics and how they affect our society is a prominent work of Liezl van Zyl.

Virtue ethics in itself is a class of normative ethical theories that treat the concept of moral virtue as central to ethics. Virtue ethics play an effective role in shaping the world today. They bind the modern class morality and rationality with ethics. Through virtue ethics, we learn how the liability of moral virtue plays a distinguishable role in setting down ethical concepts in our everyday society. The confusion and arguments have taken over the general claim of the highlighted norm ie Virtual ethics.

Liezl put out a descriptive work to clarify what substantiality do the central concepts of Virtue ethics hold. Other than that, it determines the position of virtue ethics in modern-day society along with providing sustenance to the same theme.

The major focus of Liezl van Zyl while writing the book is on Aristotelian virtue ethics. But she didn't stay restricted to just that but discussed other forms of virtue ethics that exist as well i.e pluralism and sentimentalism.

The author gave a descriptive insight into the competing for normative theories in her book and covered deontology and consequentialism.

She dedicates the first chapter to explain the basics of Virtue Ethics. She explicitly writes on Normative theory and further goes on writing on deontology and consequentialism before she gets gear of the emergence of virtue ethics.

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She acquainted the readers about virtue theory then sums up the chapter with Virtue ethics and its types.

In the second chapter, the five significant theories of virtue are laid out. The author gives an account of Aristotelian theory, Sentimentalist theory, Pluralistic theory, Consequentialist theory, and Kantian theory consecutively.

With the third chapter, the readers land on a more interesting concept. She paints an insight into the conceptions of Eudaimonia. Before finishing the chapter she lays out the understanding of Eudaimonistic Virtue ethics then briefs the readers about all the objections that were raised.

In the fourth chapter that follows, the author claims that Sentimentalists believe a well-motivated person's actions are led by warm emotions including love, care, and sympathy. She further pens down the beliefs of the Kantian theory that a really motivated person works with reasonability, no desire can ever play its role to help a motivated person achieve her goals.

Aristotelean critics balance rationality and emotions and solve the prevailing Sentimentalists and Kantian debate by arguing that both of them are equally necessary to determine the liability of a motivated individual.

The fourth chapter comes to its end with the Consequentialist's definition of virtue, i.e all the actions expected out of a motivated individual are due to the good consequences.

In the fifth chapter the author Practical Wisdom with the help of Aristotelian view. The readers come to know what relation prevails in between consequentialism and virtue of modesty and learn a detailed insight of Pluralistic Virtue ethics with relation to Disunity of virtue. Before we head out to chapter six, the author briefs about Sentimentalist Virtue ethics and how achieving perfection is an impossibility.

The sixth chapter suggests a whole paradigm of the right action. The chapter opens up with Eliminativism and proceeds to explain the right action with a Qualified Agent account, Agent-based account, and Target-Centered Account.

The seventh chapter has the most highlighted significance in the book as it emphasizes the actions that are mandatory for the one who performs his actions as per virtue ethics. It covers Codifiability and how abortion is ought to be dealt by virtue ethics performers. The chapter proceeds while featuring the demands of virtue. Before finishing the chapter the reader will acknowledge the complications that come hand in hand with following virtue ethics along with the moral narcissism that occurs to rivet the whole game to a destructive mode. Speaking of it, moral narcissism binds our attention to what lies in our motives while simultaneously blurring others associated with us.

The eighth chapter levels things on a more complicated stage and entails moral generalism and moral particularism. Furthermore, the author picks Aristotle to explain Moral wisdom and practical understanding needed in every phase of life. The most important aspect of this chapter is the radical and weaker version of ethical particularism.

The ninth chapter elucidates the understanding of situationism that the difference of behavior has more to do with the difference in peoples' situation and the experiences that they have gone through than anything else. It further manifests how the situational scenarios shape an individual's personality and build his traits. In the same chapter, you will come across the massive critique on practical rationality as well.

Before you finish this book, the author brings up fewer questions for you and leaves you thinking. The last chapter speaks on the interrelation between the virtues and the environment and if they get molded with the environment that is given to them.

Liezl Van Zyl gives her readers a philosophical ride by speaking of Environmental ethics. Moreover, she explains the Environmental Virtue Theory while mentioning the environmental exemplar approach in detail as well.

Starting from the basics of virtue ethics to how the society gets molded up as per them, the author runs to explain the philosophical institutions that play their role in shaping up people's views.

While concluding, the book starts with a light insight into virtue ethics, from where the author explains the virtue theories. The author unbiasedly proposes the insight into Eudaimonia and mentions all the counter interactions. After giving a full-fledged ride to the ins and outs of virtue ethics and all its concepts that rule in modern society, the author fidgets with the mind of the reader through her questions in the end.

Consequentially, the author leaves no stone unturned in explaining all the aspects and dynamics of Virtue Ethics while suggesting their impact on modern-day life.