

Editorial

Several contributions to this issue of *Reason Papers* are focused on virtue and its intersection with different aspects of political and cultural life. Our issue opens with a symposium on Douglas J. Den Uyl and Douglas B. Rasmussen's fourth co-authored book, *The Perfectionist Turn: From Metanorms to Metaethics*. The purpose of this latest work from the pair is twofold. They deepen their grounding of non-perfectionist politics in "individualistic perfectionism" in ethics and they defend their ethical theory against contemporary alternatives (especially constructivism). Den Uyl and Rasmussen respond to challenges raised by Elaine Sternberg, Neera K. Badhwar, and David McPherson. Sternberg relies on her specialization in business ethics, economics, and finance to critique Chapter 8 of the book: "The Entrepreneur as Moral Hero." Sympathetic to neo-Aristotelian ethics, Badhwar presses Den Uyl and Rasmussen on how they relate virtue to flourishing and ground both in human nature. McPherson, drawing on a more communitarian view of self-formation, challenges their individualistic approach to human flourishing.

The second symposium in this issue takes a hard look at a controversial subject explored in Stephen Kershnar's *Gratitude toward Veterans: Why Americans Should Not Be Very Grateful to Veterans*. Kershnar's main thesis is that, as a group, the reasons individuals have for joining the American military do not satisfy the criteria needed to generate much gratitude in the country's citizens. Michael Robillard appreciates Kershnar's pushing back on "knee-jerk lionization or pitying of veterans" (p. 65), but wonders whether he fails to give sufficient weight to the risks that members of the military undertake when they enlist. Pauline Shanks Kaurin finds Kershnar's account insufficiently clear about degrees of gratitude and the differences between being grateful and showing gratitude.

Gary James Jason continues his examination of Nazi propaganda films, analyzing how Hitler's regime managed to "sell" an idea as repugnant as genocide. Jason argues that the five films he studies in this two-part series reveal how Nazi propaganda films effectively manipulated the emotions of its target audiences by engendering feelings of difference, disgust, and danger toward Jews.

In her review essay of *A Companion to Ayn Rand*, Carrie-Ann Biondi explains how this latest addition to the Blackwell Companion to Philosophy series rectifies an injustice done to the work of Ayn Rand. Long ignored, scorned, or misunderstood by most professional

philosophers, this *Companion* volume brings together careful scholarship from various scholars to present Rand's radical philosophy in a systematic, accessible way.

This issue of *Reason Papers* is rounded out by two thought-provoking Afterwords pieces. David J. Riesbeck shows with surgical precision the truth in the adage: "The devil is in the details." The object of his analysis is a Latin phrase quoted by John Stuart Mill in his *The Subjection of Women*. This phrase has persistently been mistranslated—and hence misunderstood—by editors of Mill's work. In this issue's only article focused on aesthetics, Vinay Kolhatkar begins to develop an "integrated theory of fictional narrative." He applies his view of the power of "being transported" to two recent films, *Dunkirk* and *The Promise*, explaining how he thinks that the former fails while the latter succeeds on the criteria he sets out.

We hope you enjoy the cornucopia of insightful thought on offer in these pages as much as we have.

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