



# Spinoza's 'Ethics': An Introduction (Cambridge Introductions to Key Philosophical Texts)

By Steven Nadler

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Spinoza's Ethics is one of the most remarkable, important, and difficult books in the history of philosophy: a treatise simultaneously on metaphysics, knowledge, philosophical psychology, moral philosophy, and political philosophy. It presents, in Spinoza's famous 'geometric method', his radical views on God, Nature, the human being, and happiness. In this wide-ranging 2006 introduction to the work, Steven Nadler explains the doctrines and arguments of the Ethics, and shows why Spinoza's endlessly fascinating ideas may have been so troubling to his contemporaries, as well as why they are still highly relevant today. He also examines the philosophical background to Spinoza's thought and the dialogues in which Spinoza was engaged - with his contemporaries (including Descartes and Hobbes), with ancient thinkers (especially the Stoics), and with his Jewish rationalist forebears. His book is written for the student reader but will also be of interest to specialists in early modern philosophy.

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#### **Review**

"Steevn Nadler's new book...is an excellent guide to Spinzoa's magnum opus and a substanial contribution to Spinoza scholarship. This is precisely the kind of book that Spinoza scholarship in English has needed for a very long time...It is a pleasure to read (or rather, study) Nadler's book, and it is a pleasure to respond to its challenges. This engaging introduction to Spinoza's Ethics is highly sophisticated, lucide, and comprehensive. It makes significant contributions to Spinoza scholarship, and I have little doubt that it will be a great asset to bot hbeginning students and advanced scholars." - Yitzhak Y. Melamed, University of Chicago

#### **About the Author**

Steven Nadler is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is author of Spinoza: A Life (1999) and editor of The Cambridge Companion to Malebranche (2000).

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