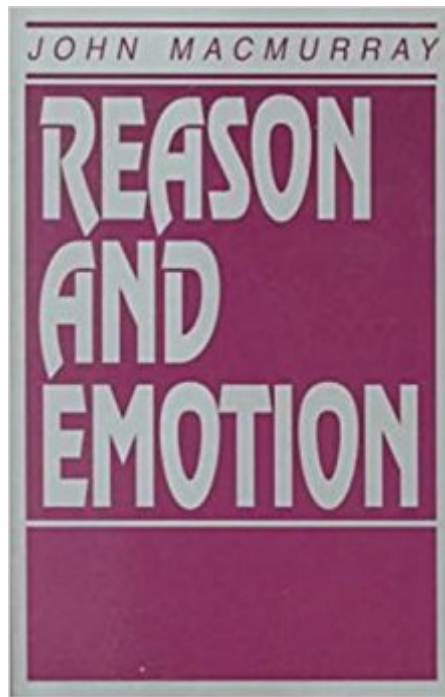


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Reason And Emotion



Synopsis

In this book, Macmurray develops with exceptional clarity his views on reason and emotion as interdependent, rather than opposed aspects of human personality. Underlying the lectures collected in this volume and giving them their unity is Macmurray's conviction that the contrast we habitually draw between "reason" and "emotion" is false and leads to the erroneous conclusion that our emotional life is irrational and must remain so. The proper contrast, Macmurray stresses, lies between "intellect" and "emotion", while "reason", as that which makes us human, expresses itself in both.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This collection of essays will of great value not least to students of Philosophy and Classics, but also, I imagine, to many others. Topics dealt with include politics, justice, and human motivation, happiness, virtue, friendship, pleasure, euthanasia and suicide. These topics are, of course, of no less importance today than they were in classical antiquity. And as these themes are of perennial interest, so Cooper is always mindful to make clear how the arguments and theories of the ancients are of interest to us too. These are not essays on theories that are long forgotten for good reason. On the contrary, Cooper always manages to show how the theories of the ancient philosophers still speak to us today. They were the most rational option available to the ancients and they are still a reasonable option for us. Cooper's great learning and profound knowledge of the ancient sources never interfere with this. However, Cooper assumes basic knowledge of the theories of the ancient

philosophers. Hence this book may prove difficult for the beginner. I recommend this book to students of Ancient Philosophy and Classics and to those who seek a good solid scholarly work on ancient ethics and moral psychology.

This book is a collection of essays that Macmurray delivered as radio addresses for the BBC in the 1930's. They are fairly basic, but nevertheless challenging to both traditional philosophy and common assumptions. His redefinition of religion as the practical effort to produce a universal community, rather than merely reiterate traditional dogmas, is magnificent. Macmurray also deals with the role of science and art and their relation to religion. He sees each one as rooted in basic human experience and vital to the future of society. I have re-read all of his books over the years, except those that are out-of-print and hard to find, except in libraries.

I bought this book after having my interest sparked in Plato and Aristotle last year. I found that Cooper answered most of what my professors had simply labeled controversies, with no real definitive answer, with remarkable ease. Cooper's work is impressive, but he is not arrogant or dogmatic. I particularly enjoyed his essays on Aristotle's conception of Friendship, Aristotle's views on contemplation, and the Greeks' views on suicide and euthanasia. In general, I found the book to be absolutely necessary for anyone who has even a cursory interest in the Ancient Greeks.

I had to read this in college at a time when I was really questioning my emotional stability. Reading this book helped me figure out what I wanted from life and how to react to situations. It completely turned my life around and made me emotionally stronger. I am not sure why this book helped me out so much, but I am grateful for John MacMurray! Highly recommended.

Timeless...thought provoking...perfect for anyone wanting to clarify their own philosophy. Take the time.

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