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This stimulating collection of essays in ethics addresses everyday moral issues, examines alternative responses to them, and explores the deeper theoretical questions which they raise. The essays focus especially on attitudes, virtues, and vices that are important to personal relationships and to how one views oneself. The primary aim is not to refine abstract theories but to understand the competing values that underlie dissatisfaction with oversimple answers produced by “applying” various theories. Among the issues are: Is it wrong to tell a lie to protect someone from a painful truth? Can one be both autonomous and compassionate? Other topics discussed are servility, weakness of will, suicide, obligations to oneself, snobbery, environmental ethics, and affirmative action. A feature of the collection is the contrast of Kantian and utilitarian answers to these problems.

“The book would be an invaluable accompaniment to Kant’s own texts in a Kant’s ethics course and it would make a much more interesting main text than one can usually get in a practical ethics course.”

Christine Korsgaard, University of Chicago

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Autonomy and self-respect

THOMAS E. HILL, JR.
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



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Sources and acknowledgments

Three of my essays included in this volume appear for the first time, and ten are reprinted, with minor editing, from prior publications. I gratefully acknowledge the following for the permission to reprint my essays.

1. "Servility and Self-Respect." Copyright 1973, *The Monist*, La Salle, Illinois 61301. Reprinted by permission.
2. "Self-Respect Reconsidered" originally appeared in *Tulane Studies in Philosophy*, vol. 31 (1983), pp. 129–37, and is reprinted here by permission of the publisher.
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The three remaining essays were not previously published: these are "Promises to Oneself," "Pains and Projects: Justifying to Oneself," and "Social Snobbery and Human Dignity." The order of presentation of these essays with the others was influenced more by topic than by the time of writing. An early version of "Promises to Oneself" in fact was the first essay written, and "Social Snobbery and Human Dignity" was the last.

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