

Cambridge Elements

Elements in the Philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein
edited by
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WITTGENSTEIN AND ETHICS

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Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-46778-0 – Wittgenstein and Ethics
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Frontmatter
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Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
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www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009467780

DOI: 10.1017/9781009439817

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When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781009439817

First published 2024

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-009-46778-0 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-009-43977-0 Paperback
ISSN 2632-7112 (online)
ISSN 2632-7104 (print)

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Wittgenstein and Ethics

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DOI: 10.1017/9781009439817
First published online: February 2024

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Abstract: In Ludwig Wittgenstein's writings, ethics takes a central place. This Element investigates his engagement with ethics in both early and later thinking. Starting from the remarks on ethics in the *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* and the framing of these remarks, this Element presents two influential approaches to Tractarian ethics before it develops a coherent reading of ethics in the early thinking, focusing on ethical silence and the relationship notions of world and the philosophical 'I'. The reading of 'A Lecture on Ethics' focuses on the critique of ethical theory and the personal dimension of ethics, two themes also running through Wittgenstein's later thinking. It considers Wittgenstein's later ethical investigations, of ethical examples, ethically relevant language uses of language, and the connections between reflections on ethics and living. It also considers the role of the other in Wittgenstein's later thinking.

Keywords: Ludwig Wittgenstein, ethics, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, moral philosophy, ethical/moral language

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ISBNs: 9781009467780 (HB), 9781009439770 (PB), 9781009439817 (OC)
ISSNs: 2632-7112 (online), 2632-7104 (print)

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