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Review of Happiness and Goodness by Steven M. Cahn and Christine Vitrano

William Simkulet

Cleveland State University, w.simkulet@csuohio.edu

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Happiness and Goodness: Philosophical Reflections on Living

Cahn (philosophy, Graduate Ctr., City Univ. of New York; *Fate, Logic, and Time*) and Vitrano (philosophy, Brooklyn Coll.; *The Nature and Value of Happiness*) present an exploration of the relationship between happiness and morality. In the book's forward, Robert B. Talisse explains that for many of us, happiness is not merely a Rawlsian primary good (or a good everyone would want) but is intrinsically valuable. This book seeks to explore happiness and its theoretical relationship with living a virtuous, moral life. It is comprised of 24 short, semi-interconnected chapters, of which most explore a concept, argument, or thought experiment in the contemporary analytic tradition. With the exception of the introductory section, each chapter references contemporary philosophical work in ethics, philosophy of religion, and political philosophy. The material explores a number of deep philosophical problems and thought experiments in a way accessible to a nonacademic audience. The authors take care to note that the conclusions they reach are not unanimously accepted, and there is room for debate.

VERDICT Although the text is short with a relatively small scope of inquiry, and many of the ideas explored here were developed more fully in academic articles in philosophy journals, this volume serves as an excellent introduction to the philosophical analysis of happiness. Recommended for all libraries.