BOOK REVIEW


In this rare mixture of conservative anti-egalitarianism and Deweyan pluralism, James Gouinlock echoes John Dewey’s paean that philosophers must turn away from pseudo-problems manufactured by philosophers and toward pressing lessons and potentialities of mortal existence. “Moral philosophy,” he urges, “is at the service of the moral life” (p. 82). Its role is to discern the nature of the human moral condition, reflect on its lessons and possibilities, and give it intelligent direction by distinguishing suitable values. Gouinlock entreats:

> As professional philosophers engage topics in the field with ever more sophistication, their analyses recede ever further from vital subject matter, and their conclusions wither on the vine of inconsequence. . . . Moral philosophy. . . . has its *raison d'être* . . . not to become sophisticated in the convolutions of technical articles, but to investigate the salient characteristics of the moral predicament and the resources to contend with them (p. 11).

Moral philosophy must rediscover the moral life if it is to proceed beyond the bankruptcy of Rawls, Gewirth, and most others. In contrast to these thinkers, James, Santayana, and Dewey are esteemed by Gouinlock for elucidating the “salient characteristics of the human scene” while rejecting the Janus faces of absolutism and relativism. They sought “to fortify practical effort” without pretending to possess a philosopher’s stone announcing omnicient rules or principles (p. 23). They thereby avoided the great vice of contemporary moral philosophy, the “quest for minute detail and impeccable accuracy in rules of conduct” (p. 21).

This vice in contemporary ethics is exemplified by “the is/ought menace” (p. 97). Whereas moral lessons and advocacies actually emerge through life experience, the “reason-besotted philosopher” acts as though moral positions are or may be taken up because they are “deductively related to verifiable propositions” (p. 97). Invariably the result is an *ad hoc* justification of pre-existing moral advocacies. Why, Gouinlock asks, do philosophers ignore their
These are other reasons to favor Cognitivism as a theory of language acquisition and development.
Johnson City, TN 37614-0596
Department of Philosophy
Seven Pensmore

model.

moral intuitions. Conscience in the context of

Conscience is the moral voice that guides us in our actions, and its

Conscience undercuts the limits and boundaries of socialization and the

Conscience functions as an internal monitor that informs us about the

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's influence on behavior is significant, and its effects can

Conscience's role is not limited to moral decisions, but it also

Conscience's impact on our lives is profound, and its presence is

Conscience's influence on behavior is not limited to the

Conscience's role is not only to monitor behavior, but it also

Conscience's influence on behavior is not limited to the

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,

Conscience's role is to provide guidance and direction to our actions,