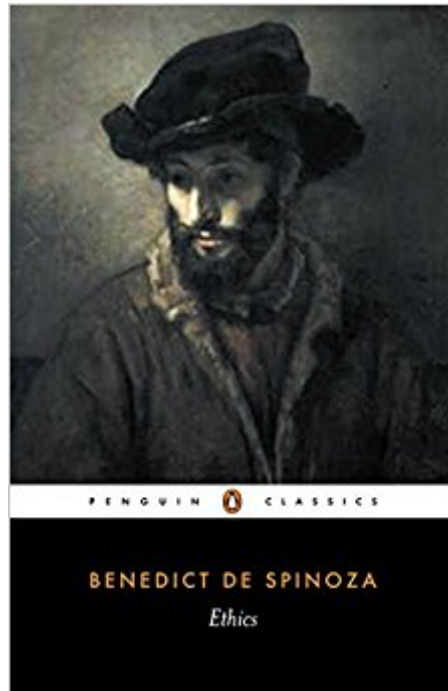




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# Ethics (Penguin Classics)



## Synopsis

A profoundly beautiful and uniquely insightful description of the universe, Benedict de Spinoza's *Ethics* is one of the masterpieces of Enlightenment-era philosophy. Published shortly after his death, the *Ethics* is undoubtedly Spinoza's greatest work - an elegant, fully cohesive cosmology derived from first principles, providing a coherent picture of reality, and a guide to the meaning of an ethical life. Following a logical step-by-step format, it defines in turn the nature of God, the mind, the emotions, human bondage to the emotions, and the power of understanding - moving from a consideration of the eternal, to speculate upon humanity's place in the natural order, the nature of freedom and the path to attainable happiness. A powerful work of elegant simplicity, the *Ethics* is a brilliantly insightful consideration of the possibility of redemption through intense thought and philosophical reflection. The *Ethics* is presented in the standard translation of the work by Edwin Curley. This edition also includes an introduction by Stuart Hampshire, outlining Spinoza's philosophy and placing it in context. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The noblest and most lovable of the great philosophers ... ethically he is supreme. (Bertrand

Russell)"

Benedict de Spinoza was born in Amsterdam in 1632, where his orthodox Jewish family had fled from persecution in Portugal. Spinoza was expelled from the synagogue for his heterodox philosophy, and earned his living as an optical-lens grinder. He identified God with nature and denied the possibility of an act of creation. *Ethics* was published in 1677 after his death and explored a doctrine which inspired the Romantic poets. Edwin Curley is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Michigan and editor and translator of Spinoza's *Collected Works*. Stuart Hampshire was elected a Fellow of All Souls in 1936 and was a tutor in philosophy. He has held numerous prestigious academic posts.

Spinoza was, and will most likely always be, one of the greatest philosophers. *Ethics* is the most comprehensive treatise on the human mind and how it is the core of every aspect of our lives. Breaking down emotions, beliefs, reactions and why we experience them. His logic and presentation is hard to find fault with. It's not the easiest book to read, but well worth it if you take the time to really comprehend the full picture. It just goes to show that a 17th century mind was no less advanced than any of the great thinkers of modern day. You don't have to agree with every philosophy within the pages to truly enjoy the beauty of its well thought out explanation. Recommended to anyone who likes to keep an open mind and learn from other people's perspectives.

Spinoza's "*Ethics*" is first and foremost a practical philosophy for everyday living. And for the deep sense of acceptance and joy I experienced during and after reading it - I can say it was definitely worth the read. It's also, however, a work of sustained philosophical brilliance. A philosophy of immanence, in which economy of principles prevails as an attempt is made to explain existence through one single thing - Substance/God/Nature, three words for this one thing. There is no Cartesian mind/body dualism here, but instead a philosophy that seeks to show how mind and body are united. I could go on and on, but suffice it to say the book is great and challenging thoughtscape. For all serious scholars of philosophy or people looking to say yes to existence - this book was meant for you.

If you want to read a book that touches on the essence of every aspect of existence, start here. The format of this book is intimidating, but it is accessible to anyone. It is meant to be read intently.

Spinoza breaks down common experience to demonstrate how pure reason leads to an understanding of Nature, revealing the wonder of the mundane.

Very fine Pantheistic arguments, given in exhaustive Double Dutch by an excommunicated Jew of the 17th century.

Dense and Hard to read, but worth it.

This is a great book, but a bit hard to read and understand.

Received as expected. Spinoza's works are must-reads and one can't go wrong with this profound philosophical treatise [Ethics.]

I love Spinoza! He is definitely a good and interesting read. He has a different style of writing philosophical thought but I actually think it is helpful! I would recommend this to all Philosophy Majors.

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