



THE 2010 COMMON BOOK
Thursday, November 18, 2010, 11:30 a.m.
5601 West Loop South, Auditorium

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RECLAIMING VIRTUE: How to Develop The Moral Intelligence To Do The Right Thing At The Right Time For The Right Reason
by John Bradshaw

In *RECLAIMING VIRTUE*, John Bradshaw deals with the unprecedented opportunity to live, teach and leave a legacy of virtue.

It is a radical departure from the traditional way of teaching morality and is supported by the significant developments in the field of neuroscientific studies during the last fifteen years. It is a call to “good old moral virtue,” harkening back to the earliest traditions of Greek moral philosophy and combining them with the tradition of the great Medieval theologian Thomas Aquinas. It presents moral intelligence as a unique, innate intelligence that can be perfected through becoming the virtue of *Prudence* (how to choose well), which is the virtue of virtues. It has worldwide influence as it speaks directly to the polarization of fundamental extremists who justify killing in the name of God, and it exposes the cruelty of any totalistic culture of obedience which tolerates murder, torture, and mind control, thus negating any possibility for moral intelligence. It offers a step-by-step, coherent and teachable ethics of virtue, which aims at developing the inner-strength of the soul, providing virtues that fit the demands of the information revolution’s need for autonomy, individuality, and knowledge workers.

John Bradshaw says, “At this time of uncertainty and confusion, we urgently need to develop the inner strengths that will guide us no matter how much the world changes around us, and no matter what new circumstances we encounter. The ancient philosophers and theologians called these inner strengths *virtues*.”

Editorial Reviews

From Publishers Weekly

Bestselling recovery expert and motivational speaker Bradshaw, presents an in-depth survey of human behavior from many angles in a probing exploration of our inner guidance system. Beginning with magnificent moral moments (a black girl integrating a school smiles at a woman who spat at her), he interweaves his own tangled life experiences: he obtained advanced degrees in theology and philosophy, yet lost jobs after alcoholic binges even after a 12-step recovery program; he still felt like he was on the outside of life looking in and set out to change the direction of his life. Inviting the reader to join him on his personal journey to make sense out of the complexities and ambiguities of the moral/ethical order, Bradshaw divides his book into three potent and compelling sections: part one defines the nature of moral intelligence; the second section examines how to develop that intelligence. In the final pages, he outlines family goals and offers ways for readers to develop their children's moral intelligence. Bradshaw followers and many first-time readers will find this an extremely effective and valuable guide. (Apr. 28).

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From [Booklist](#)

Bradshaw, best-selling author and creator of the PBS series *Bradshaw on the Family*, explores the individual capacity to develop the moral intelligence to navigate life's challenges and achieve virtue. He begins by defining moral intelligence, looking to philosophers from Aristotle to Thomas Aquinas for ideals of human behavior. Bradshaw follows with advice on how to develop and nurture moral intelligence, outlining the preparatory work to be done and ways to develop moral character and instill it in children. To illustrate virtue, Bradshaw offers profiles of people—historic and contemporary—who stepped up to challenges of national or personal significance: Abraham Lincoln; Henry David Thoreau; Ruby Bridges, the black girl who braved rabid prejudice to integrate public schools in New Orleans; Morrie Schwartz, former teacher and subject of the book and film *Tuesdays with Morrie*. Bradshaw intertwines his own life history, with extremes from virtue and piety to alcoholism and wanton licentiousness, as he looks beyond religious dogma for a deeper sense of morality. He draws on religion, psychology, and philosophy to offer a broad and nuanced perspective on virtue. --
Vanessa Bush