Contents

Preface ix
Introduction: A First Approximation 1
What the Dictionaries Say 4 Moral Wisdom as a Capacity 5 Moral Wisdom as a Second-Order Virtue 9 Approaching Moral Wisdom 11 Conclusion 14
A Eudaimonistic Conception of Good Lives 16
The Human Point of View 16 The Values of a Good Life 19 The Need for Judgment 24 Objectivity and Anthropocentricity 28 Conclusion 29
The Socratic Ideal and Its Problems 31
The Socratic Conception of a Good Life 32 The Socratic Conception of Moral Wisdom 37 Moral Wisdom and Self-Knowledge 40 Doubts about the Socratic Ideal 45 Conclusion 50
Permanent Adversities 51
Contingency and the Goods of Good Lives 51 Conflict and the Plurality of Values 57 Evil and Human Wickedness 64 Conclusion 70
Judgment and Control 73
The Problem of Control 74 Easing the Problem of Control 79

	Moral Inequality 84 Degrees of Responsibility 87 Character and Control 91 Conclusion 94
5	Moral Imagination: The First Mode of Reflection 95
	Possibilities and Impossibilities 96 The Nature of Moral Imagination 101 The Enlargement of Possibilities 107 Conclusion 112
6	Self-Knowledge: The Second Mode of Reflection 114
	Character and Self-Knowledge 115 The Nature of Self-Knowledge 121 The Need for Self-Knowledge 127 From Fortuitous to Deliberate Character 129 Conclusion 136
7	Self-Knowledge: The Second Mode of Reflection (continued) 137
	Beyond Coherence: Primary Values 137 Beyond Coherence: Anomalies 139 Beyond Coherence: Surprises 141 The Adequacy of Self-Knowledge 147 The Foreclosure of Possibilities 152 Conclusion 158
8	Moral Depth: The Third Mode of Reflection 160
	Hopelessness? 161 Four Stages of Moral Depth 165 What Sophocles Suggests 170 The Fifth Stage of Moral Depth 174 Conclusion 180
9	The Ideal of Justice 182
	The Concept of Justice 183 Making Lives More Just 190 Some Limits of Justice 196 Justice and Moral Wisdom 201 Conclusion 203
10	Growing in Moral Wisdom 204
	Moral Wisdom as an Attitude to Life 204 Moral Wisdom as the Loss of Innocence 213 Reflective Innocence and Moral Wisdom 221
	Works Cited 225
	Index 233