

The Good Life and other  
**Philosophical Essays**  
on Human Nature



Robert Craig

The Good Life and other  
**Philosophical Essays**  
on Human Nature

Richard,

a small token  
of my appreciation of  
your support and loyalty  
throughout the years.

Best to you and your  
family!

Bob

*Hook: Jesus and Saint Paul felt that all the necessities of life would be available to those with sufficient faith in God. But what if food, shelter, and water are not provided in a famine? What would be the responsibility of a father and husband under these circumstances?*

**T**easer: I believe my long essay, "The Good Life," and the companion essays contain important insights into understanding the difficulties in setting specific prescriptions and proscriptions for normative behavior, for understanding our nature and what is meant by virtuous behavior, and for leading the Good Life. The discussion is developed along five human life modes: health, need to work to satisfy our basic and secondary needs, morality and its quest for equality or fairness, political implementation, and aesthetic and religious experience. It is couched in the understanding that our Good Life must be consistent with our nature, in the Classical Greek sense. My acceptance of rationality, free will, and a moral sense is basic to the discussion, as reason cannot prove reasonableness, and normative discourse cannot occur without this moral sense. I show conflicts among the five categories with examples such as that between the ethical dictum not to kill, and our need to protect our family and us from harm. These conflicts also occur among our virtues, for example that between courage and prudence, and between unrestricted liberty and the quest for equality. The conflicts are confounding, but they do not preclude our elucidating how they ought to be resolved.



**A**uthor Bio: Dr. Craig studied liberal arts, chemistry, and philosophy at Colgate University, graduated from Northwestern University Medical School, and spent his 38 years of medical practice, teaching, and research at the Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine. He was recognized locally, nationally, and internationally for his academic, scholarly, and clinical abilities. Deriving much of his interest in philosophy during his years at Colgate, he continued his philosophical studies throughout his medical career. His philosophic wisdom has been enhanced deeply by his interactions in his professional life. Since being an Emeritus Professor of Medicine, he has written the philosophical essays published here. The essays are couched in the great Greek intellectual tradition, especially Aristotle and Socrates.

 **TATE PUBLISHING**  
AND ENTERPRISES, LLC

Philosophy, Essays

978-1-63268-211-6

\$10.99



5 1 0 9 9

PRINTED IN THE USA