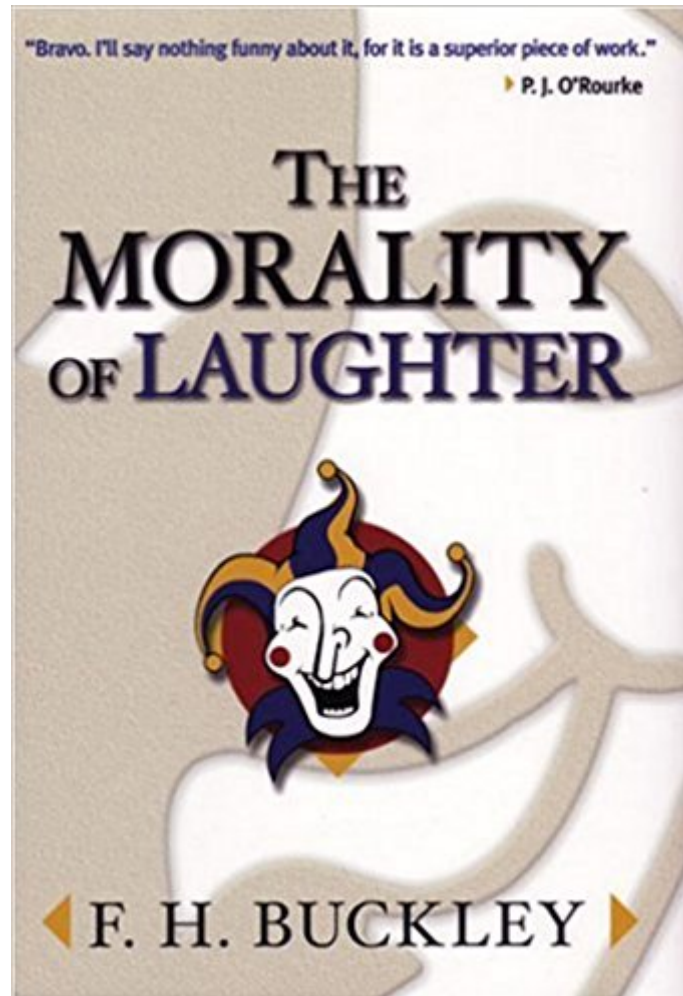




Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

The Morality Of Laughter



Synopsis

â œBravo! Iâ ™I'll say nothing funny about it, for it is a superior piece of work.â •â "P. J.

Oâ ™Rourkeâ œF. H. Buckleyâ ™s *The Morality of Laughter* is at once a humorous look at serious matters and a serious book about humor.â •â "Crisis Magazineâ œBuckley has written a . ne and funny book that will be read with pleasure and instruction.â •â "First Thingsâ œ. . . written elegantly and often wittily. . . .â •â "National Postâ œ. . . a fascinating philosophical exposition of laughter. . . .â •â "National Reviewâ œ. . . at once a wise and highly amusing book.â •â "Wall Street Journal Onlineâ œ. . . a useful reminder that a cheery society is a healthy one.â •â "Weekly Standard

Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: University of Michigan Press; New edition edition (January 27, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0472098187

ISBN-13: 978-0472098187

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 2.6 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #576,429 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #179 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Philosophy > Aesthetics](#) #478 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Aesthetics](#) #1049 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Philosophy > Ethics](#)

Customer Reviews

". . .at once a wise and highly amusing book. . . . I laughed aloud, reading *The Morality of Laughter*." -- Roger Kimball, *The Wall Street Journal*"as Buckley. . . humorously points out, mechanical rules have invaded nearly all fields of modern life." -- Crisis MagazineA fascinating philosophical exposition of laughter. -- National ReviewA useful reminder that a cheery society is a healthy one. -- Weekly Standard*The Morality of Laughter* "abounds with amusing anecdotes and observations." -- National Review Online

Francis H. Buckley is Professor of Law at George Mason University School of Law and Director of the George Mason Law and Economics Center

Everyone likes a good laugh. It used to be thought that laughing was one of the things that

separated us from other primates, but it has been shown that chimps and other cousins have laughter; this only means that laughter is even more intimately associated with our inner life than we had previously supposed. But human laughter is not simply a physiological response to an amusing situation or to delight. According to F. H. Buckley, in *The Morality of Laughter* (University of Michigan Press), laughter is a civilizing force, and if you laugh, you are a moralizing agent shaping your social environment. Buckley is a lawyer, and while he may be an academic, he is not a professional philosopher. He admits that laughter has been frowned upon as a subject for academic and philosophical investigation; laughter is just too lightweight. However, his entertaining volume, which includes its share of jokes and is wittily, if densely, written, demonstrates that there may be more to laughing than is usually thought, and that the subject has been worth his serious attention. We often laugh at something surprising, at a story that turns out in a way we were not expecting; we find the incongruous funny. Buckley demonstrates, however, that though such incongruities may spark laughter, there is a tripartite social arrangement going on between a jester, his audience, and the butt of the joke. The wit proposes a joke. The listener laughs or not. Laughter indicates a social tie consented to by the listener, a solidarity with the jester in laughing at the butt. The laughter is judgmental. The jester has proclaimed his superiority over the butt, and the listener who laughs agrees. "There is no laughter without a butt, and no butt without a message about a risible inferiority." The laughter shared between the joker and the listener promotes trust between them. We are far more likely to laugh aloud when seeing a play in a theater to spread this communal trust than we are when reading the script at home. Buckley gives counterexamples of such jokes as puns, which may seem not to have a butt (but sometimes do); but there are so many examples of pointed jokes given here that the overall pattern is clear. For instance, when George IV was told by a courtier, "It is my duty to inform Your Majesty that your greatest enemy is dead," the courtier intended to give the news of the death of Napoleon; but the king replied, "Is she, by God," indicating his disdain for Queen Caroline. Buckley shows that laughter may correct behavior, directing it toward moderate norms. A delight in reading this volume is that Buckley is extremely widely read, and can, with seeming effortlessness, draw upon Graham Greene, Aristotle, Moliere, Hobbes, Bergson, and many others. His erudition does not keep the book from being lively. Laughter goes with joy, and as Buckley says, "... of all things, the ability to find joy in life is our chief earthly good." In a volume filled with widespread intellectual thrusts and asides, he has provided much to think about, as well as directly delivering plenty of his very subject matter.

My book club of 12 bright, well-read people -- who have on occasion forged their way through some

pretty obscure ideas and dense prose -- found this book so off-putting to read that the point of the book got lost in the effort. We agreed that there were some interesting ideas in the book, but it just wasn't worth the effort to uncover them. Where, oh where, was the editor?

I heard about this book during a radio news "extra" program. The interview with the author was intriguing as was the title of the book. I was quite disappointed. The book does not read easily and evoked memories of college text books.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Morality of Laughter Your Life in Christ: Foundations of Catholic Morality Heartwood: The First Generation of Theravada Buddhism in America (Morality and Society Series) Perspectives on Morality and Human Well-Being: A Contribution to Islamic Economics (Islamic Economics S) Christian Morality (student book): Our Response to God's Love Christian Morality: In the Breath of God (Catholic Basics: A Pastoral Ministry Series) Catholic Morality: A Course in Religion - Book III AIDS Doesn't Show Its Face: Inequality, Morality, and Social Change in Nigeria A Natural History of Human Morality Morality: The Catholic View Growing in Christian Morality: (Student Text) Morality and Viennese Opera in the Age of Mozart and Beethoven (Ashgate Interdisciplinary Studies in Opera) Islam, Memory, and Morality in Yemen: Ruling Families in Transition (Contemporary Anthropology of Religion) Should Trees Have Standing?: Law, Morality, and the Environment Arguments about Abortion: Personhood, Morality, and Law Moral Brains: The Neuroscience of Morality Minimizing Marriage: Marriage, Morality, and the Law (Studies in Feminist Philosophy) The Morality of Law Cyberethics: Morality and Law in Cyberspace On Law, Morality and Politics, 2nd Edition (Hackett Classics)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)