

Dedication

No function of man has so much permanence as virtuous activities - these are thought to be more durable even than knowledge of the sciences - and of these themselves the most valuable are more durable because those who are happy spend their life most readily and most continuously in these; for this seems to be the reason why we do not forget them. The attribute in question, then, will belong to the happy man, and he will be happy throughout his life; for always, or by preference to everything else, he will be engaged in virtuous action and contemplation, and he will bear the chances of life most nobly and altogether decorously, if he is 'truly good' and 'foursquare beyond reproach'.

–Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, Book 1, 10

Grant me the strength, time and opportunity always to correct what I have acquired, always to extend its domain; for knowledge is immense and the spirit of man can extend indefinitely to enrich itself daily with new requirements.

–Oath of Maimonides, 1135-1204

I dedicate this volume to my parents
Phil and Faygie Schwartz
and in honor of my father's 70th birthday.
A man who is a student of the teachings of both
Aristotle and Maimonides, and lives life guided by the
virtues inspired by those great teachers.