

The Story of Virtue identifies 14 key virtues — Empathy, Compassion, Charity, Self-discipline, Loyalty, Audacity, Honesty, Humility, Tolerance, Wisdom, Work, Love, Justice and Mercy — all of which are emphasised to a greater or lesser degree in these stories, and which, the book argues, are at the heart of the religious traditions from which they stem. The reader is encouraged to read these stories, and to seek in their own lives a place for the virtues they illustrate. This is a book for anyone wishing to answer that perennial question, “How should I live?”



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joe Humphreys is a writer and senior staff journalist with *The Irish Times*, principally writing news, current affairs and features. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Political Philosophy, obtained from University College Dublin. He lives in Dublin with his wife and daughter. This is his first book.

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‘The stories retold in this book are, literally, timeless. They were composed not as historical documents but as lessons for life. . . . By returning to these stories we can reclaim a lost wisdom that has been covered up for generations. . . . In short, we can return to the true spirit of religious traditions, and discover what they mean for us today.’ — *From the Introduction*



THE STORY OF VIRTUE

JOE HUMPHREYS



THE STORY OF VIRTUE

UNIVERSAL LESSONS ON HOW TO LIVE



JOE HUMPHREYS

How can you live a good life? What values or “virtues” can you draw on in an increasingly secular and divided world? When religions appear to always contradict each other, whose guidance should you turn to? *The Story of Virtue* attempts to answer these questions, questions that have profound implications, both on an individual and a universal level.

On the surface, it seems that religion is a source of tension in the world. Fundamentalism is on the rise. Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, believers and non-believers are speaking to each other less and distrusting each other more. A clash of civilisations has been predicted. But it need not be so. *The Story of Virtue* argues that the world’s major faiths share much in common — more than many religious leaders will freely admit.

Rather than looking at doctrine and the other baggage that religions have accumulated over the years, *The Story of Virtue* delves into ancient myths, fables and core morality tales from the traditions of Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism and other religions, as well as western secular philosophy. The book identifies the common threads that run through these stories, threads that make up a universal human fabric of morality.

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