

Preface

Ernest Sosa is one of the most distinguished contemporary philosophers. His groundbreaking work in epistemology has shaped the pertinent debates with continuing impact. Beyond that, he has also contributed greatly to a variety of philosophical areas, most prominently metaphysics, metaphilosophy and philosophy of language.

This book, resulting from the 18th Münster Lectures in Philosophy, provides the reader with exclusive insights into Ernest Sosa's latest ideas as well as main aspects of his philosophical work of the last 50 years. It includes an original paper by Sosa on his most recent work in epistemology and seven critical papers that target a wide range of topics from Sosa's oeuvre, as well as replies by Sosa.

In the first paper of the volume, entitled *Knowledge in Action*, Sosa argues that knowledge is subject to a certain sort of normativity which is distinctive of action and accounts for this sort of normativity by drawing on a distinction between the three aspects of accuracy, adroitness and aptness (AAA). He introduces this account with his famous example of the archer who consciously shoots at a certain target: If the attempt of the archer to hit the target succeeds, what can be said about the shot is that it was accurate. If the attempt was skillfully performed, we can call the shot adroit. A shot that is both accurate and adroit does not have to be apt, as, for aptness, a certain connection is required between accuracy and adroitness: In order for the shot to be called apt, it must as well be the case that it is accurate *because* it is adroit. Sosa applies his account to actions of several kinds, including knowledge itself. In this way, Sosa's AAA account provides a basis for a typology of knowledge that distinguishes animal knowledge, reflective knowledge and knowledge full well.

The second paper in the volume takes up this account of knowing full well as developed in Sosa's recent work on virtue epistemology and aims to show that it does not provide a satisfactory response to the skeptic. Also tackling potential gaps in Sosa's virtue epistemology, the third paper considers how to integrate the phenomenon of testimony into Sosa's theory of knowledge.

Arguably, knowledge full well is reserved for rational beings. Thus, it would be disastrous for human ambitions with regard to such knowledge if they were irrational in general as supposedly suggested by some empirical findings. The fourth

paper discusses Sosa's claim that these alleged empirical challenges to human rationality rest on a conceptual confusion and presents his account of rationality as being incomplete.

Empirical challenges to philosophical claims are also in the focus of the fifth paper, though here with respect to metaphilosophical issues raised by the so-called X-Phi movement: The authors argue that Sosa's prominent response to the doubts regarding both philosophy's scientific status and potential as put forward by the movement's proponents remains unsatisfactory.

Both the sixth and the seventh paper are dedicated to Sosa's work in the area of metaphysics. The sixth paper questions whether Sosa's idea to discuss different varieties of causation could be implemented fruitfully in current debates concerning causation and constitution. The seventh paper presents several puzzles with respect to Sosa's suggestion of a middle way between existential relativism and absolutism, questioning the relation between ontological and conceptual forms of relativism.

The relationship between concepts and the world also plays a crucial role in the eighth paper: The authors present Sosa's account of the relation between mind and world as a form of externalistic internalism that, they argue, fails to solve a number of problems. The volume closes with a ninth paper that comprises Sosa's replies to the seven previous papers.

As in Sosa's archer example, the authors of this volume have aimed at different aspects of Sosa's philosophy as targets of their critical papers. Traditionally, the Münster Lectures in Philosophy give especially young researchers in philosophy and adjacent disciplines the opportunity to enter into an intellectual exchange with internationally and nationally renowned philosophers. In line with this idea, also this time faculty members and advanced students brought up their arguments in discussion with our guest Ernest Sosa. We give thanks to all contributors for their commitment in preparing the papers and their dedication to the project. Furthermore, hosting an event like the Münster Lectures would be impossible without helping hands in the background – hence, our thanks go to those who made the Münster Lectures such a smoothly running and enjoyable event. Moreover, we thank the team from Springer Publishers for supporting us in all the various stages of the project. Most importantly, we cordially thank Ernest Sosa who was not only a great inspiration in terms of philosophy but also a truly wonderful guest.

Münster, Germany

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Targeting His Philosophy

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