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Self to Self
Selected Essays

Self to Self brings together essays on personal identity, autonomy, and moral emotions by the philosopher J. David Velleman. Although the essays were written independently, they are unified by an overarching thesis – that there is no single entity denoted by “the self” – as well as by themes from Kantian ethics, psychoanalytic theory, social psychology, and Velleman’s work in the philosophy of action. Two of the essays were selected by the editors of *Philosophers’ Annual* as being among the ten best papers in their year of publication.

Self to Self will be of interest to philosophers, psychologists, and others who theorize about the self.

J. David Velleman was professor of philosophy at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and is now professor of philosophy at New York University. He is the author of *Practical Reflection* and *The Possibility of Practical Reason*, and he co-edits the online journal *Philosophers’ Imprint*. His articles have appeared in *The Philosophical Review*, *Ethics*, and *Mind*, among other publications.

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*for my brothers,
Paul and Dan*

Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>Sources</i>	xi
1 Introduction	1
2 A Brief Introduction to Kantian Ethics	16
3 The Genesis of Shame	45
4 Love as a Moral Emotion	70
5 The Voice of Conscience	110
6 A Rational Superego	129
7 Don't Worry, Feel Guilty	156
8 Self to Self	170
9 The Self as Narrator	203
10 From Self Psychology to Moral Philosophy	224
11 The Centered Self	253
12 Willing the Law	284
13 Motivation by Ideal	312
14 Identification and Identity	330
<i>Bibliography</i>	361
<i>Index</i>	379

Acknowledgments

As this book goes to press, I am approaching the end of my twenty-two-year affiliation with the Department of Philosophy at the University of Michigan. The book contains most of my writing from the last ten of those years. Belonging to the Michigan department has been a rare privilege; I hope that I have used it well.

Although several of the essays in this volume return to themes in the philosophy of action that occupied my previous books, most venture into new areas – personal identity, psychoanalytic theory, the moral emotions, Kantian ethics. My freedom to explore these areas was greatly enhanced by a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities and a fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, both of which were generously supplemented by the Philosophy Department and the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

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xiii

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