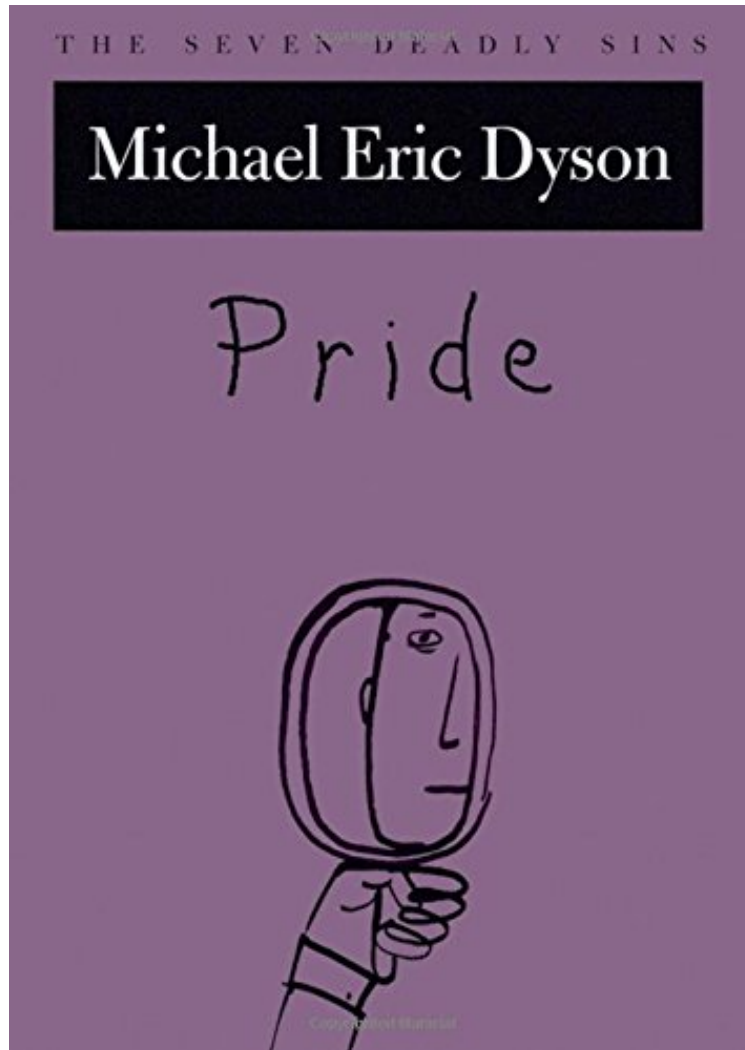


[Library ebook] Pride: The Seven Deadly Sins (New York Public Library Lectures in Humanities)

Pride: The Seven Deadly Sins (New York Public Library Lectures in Humanities)

Michael Eric Dyson

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Michael Eric Dyson : Pride: The Seven Deadly Sins (New York Public Library Lectures in Humanities) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised **Pride: The Seven Deadly Sins (New York Public Library Lectures in Humanities)**:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. **Pride**By The Kwanzaa Coloring BookMichael Eric Dyson suggests in his book **Pride** that sin a virtuous value,he agrees with Aristotle as he engages in long diatribes of Black and White pride. His arguments are compelling, if you like Dyson you will be drawn into his views-cheering and pumping your fist into the air. I want to believe him; pride has helped African Americans on a path to equality in The United States

and has provided moral paragons that America needed in the past. However, since the King years I have become incredulous of Dyson's claim that pride is a virtuous value. For example, in the 21st century African Americans use "Black Pride" to obtain an allowance to stuff their personal piggy banks, even exploiting their own community in the process, which has led them away from GOD. This is the reason Thomas Aquinas preached that pride was a sin.⁰ of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Rachel Davis The book is a really interesting look at pride.⁵ of 8 people found the following review helpful. You can't judge this book by its title (and that's not so good) By Kerry Walters The New York Public Library's series on the 7 deadly sins, which invites authors to reflect on the contemporary relevance and meaning of the 7 traditional deadlies, is an excellent idea. Unfortunately, the series is uneven, as exemplified by Michael Eric Dyson's rather self-indulgent volume on pride. Dyson has made his name as an acute cultural critic and a commentator on the politics of identity. He's very good at what he does, and I've learned a good deal from reading his other books, especially *Is Bill Cosby Right, Come Hell or High Water, and Debating Racism*. I also think that his reflections on the politics of racial identity in this book are interesting. My problem is that they're misplaced. What Dyson has wound up doing is writing a book on the dynamics of black and white pride as defined by the American experience. What he's not done is write a book on pride as one of the 7 deadlies. Apart from the opening chapter, in which Dyson provides a quick and sketchy rundown of pride from Aristotle to the contemporary theologian Stanley Hauerwas, and the concluding chapter, in which Dyson distinguishes between legitimate national pride and gung-ho, uncritical patriotism, his treatment focuses on what pride, self-esteem, and ethnic identity should mean to black Americans. In focusing this narrowly, Dyson necessarily moves away from pride as a moral vice to the social construct of black pride. Again, his discussion is interesting and worthwhile. But it leaves the reader with the sense that s/he's been taken in, given something quite different from what the book title and series title promised.

Of the seven deadly sins, pride is the only one with a virtuous side. It is certainly a good thing to have pride in one's country, in one's community, in oneself. But when taken too far, as Michael Eric Dyson shows in *Pride*, these virtues become deadly sins. Dyson, named by *Ebony* magazine as one of the 100 most influential African Americans, here looks at the many dimensions of pride. Ranging from Augustine and Aquinas, MacIntyre and Hauerwas, to Niebuhr and King, Dyson offers a thoughtful, multifaceted look at this "virtuous vice." He probes the philosophical and theological roots of pride in examining its transformation in Western culture. Dyson discusses how black pride keeps blacks from being degraded and excluded by white pride, which can be invisible, unspoken, but nonetheless very powerful. Dyson also offers a moving glimpse into the teachers and books that shaped his personal pride and vocation. Dyson also looks at less savory aspects of national pride. Since 9/11, he notes, we have had to close ranks. But the collective embrace of all things American, to the exclusion of anything else, has taken the place of a much richer, much more enduring, much more profound version of love of country. This unchecked pride asserts the supremacy of America above all others--elevating our national beliefs above any moral court in the world--and attacking critics of American foreign policy as unpatriotic and even traitorous. Hubris, temerity, arrogance--the unquestioned presumption that one's way of life defines how everyone else should live--pride has many destructive manifestations. In this engaging and energetic volume, Michael Eric Dyson, one of the nation's foremost public intellectuals, illuminates this many-sided human emotion, one that can be an indispensable virtue or a deadly sin.

From *Publishers Weekly* In the final book in a collaborative series between the New York Public Library and Oxford University Press on the seven deadly sins, Dyson examines pride in its many iterations, invoking pop culture icons and events to lend accessibility to a potentially didactic subject. (Francine Prose wrote earlier of gluttony, Wendy Wasserstein of sloth...) "If pride is a sin," Dyson writes, "it is no ordinary sin, to be sure." Indeed, Dyson, a prolific author, professor at the University of Pennsylvania and an ordained Baptist minister, takes his time in explicating the virtues and dangers of pride. Although an initial chapter on the "philosophical and religious roots of pride" proves less than engaging, Dyson's discussions of "personal pride," "white pride," "black pride" and "national pride" are thoughtful and exhibit a fine balance of scholarship and philosophizing. In the black pride section, the book's liveliest, Dyson (*Is Bill Cosby Right? Or Has the Black Middle Class Lost Its Mind?*) talks about political figures such as Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice and the effects they do and do not have on the black electorate. He analyzes Halle Berry's and Denzel Washington's acceptance speeches at the 2002 Academy Awards, concluding one was "brave," the other "cool." Readers already familiar with the "sins" series will welcome this final volume, as will those interested in issues of race. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *Booklist* In this final part of a series on the seven deadly sins sponsored by Oxford and the New York Public Library, Dyson, in his distinct style, examines the sin of pride. Dyson posits Aristotle's notion of "proper pride," reflective more of virtue when used as a shield for survival, as reflected in a black man's struggle in America. However, the form of pride that "precedes the fall" is reflected in the practices of some black elites who are cold and condescending to the less fortunate. The nation's pride, however, especially post-9/11, provokes great trepidation for Dyson, who fears that patriotism is viewed too narrowly and truth is deflected by hysterical distortion that denies foreign policy vices. ^B

Dyson moves from pride as a vice on the human plane to pride as a sin in the sacred realm. He admonishes fundamentalists, whose rigid perceptions of right and wrong carry a tinge of hubris. This is an excellent essay on pride in its various dimensions. Vernon Ford Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "One of the most inspired reads to cross my desk in a good while. The travel-size sermon...takes a look at what Brother Dyson calls 'the most deadly of the seven sins.' You'll be dazzled by his musings on that vice."--Patrik Henry Bass, Essence Magazine "An excellent essay on pride in its various dimensions."--Booklist "Pride isn't what it used to be, and by the time Michael Eric Dyson gets through with the subject, many of the philosophers who have opined on the subject will realize they have less to be proud of than they thought. The 'deadly sin' turns out to have its virtues, and Dyson is eloquent in rooting them in his own vividly-recounted experience." --James J. O'Donnell, Provost, Georgetown University, and author of Augustine: A New Biography "Dyson examines pride in its many iterations, invoking pop culture icons and events to lend accessibility to a potentially didactic subject.... Dyson's discussions of 'personal pride,' 'white pride,' 'black pride' and 'national pride' are thoughtful and exhibit a fine balance of scholarship and philosophizing.... Readers already familiar with the 'sins' series will welcome this final volume, as will those interested in issues of race."--Publishers Weekly "What midsummer night's feast would be digestible without Francine Prose's Gluttony; what weekend jaunt to your best friend's chateau would be survivable without Joseph Epstein's Envy? And you'll need Wendy Wasserstein's Sloth (wickedly subtitled 'And How to Get It') while you're struggling out of your deck chair."--O, The Oprah Magazine (on the series) "Whimsically packaged examinations of Lust by Simon Blackburn, Gluttony by Francine Prose, Envy by Joseph Epstein, Anger by Robert Thurman, Greed by Phyllis Tickle, Sloth by Wendy Wasserstein and Pride by Michael Eric Dyson become playgrounds for cultural reflection by authors and playwrights in Oxford's Seven Deadly Sins series."--Publishers Weekly (on the series)