

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910461291803321
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Titolo	Friendship [[electronic resource]] : a central moral value / / Michael H. Mitias
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam, : Rodopi, 2012
ISBN	1-280-49714-9 9786613592378 94-012-0725-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (239 p.)
Collana	Value inquiry book series ; ; v. 239
Disciplina	177.62
Soggetti	Friendship - Philosophy Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Preliminary Material -- THESIS AND PLAN OF THE BOOK -- CONCEPT OF MORAL PARADIGM -- MORAL PARADIGMS IN HELLENIC AND HELLENISTIC CULTURES -- FRIENDSHIP IN HELLENIC AND HELLENISTIC MORAL THEORY -- FRIENDSHIP IN MEDIEVAL MORAL THEORY -- FRIENDSHIP IN MODERN MORAL THEORY -- FRIENDSHIP IN CONTEMPORARY MORAL THEORY -- FRIENDSHIP AS AN ONTOLOGICAL NEED -- NOTES -- ABOUT THE AUTHOR -- WORKS CITED -- INDEX -- VIBS.
Sommario/riassunto	Friendship was recognized as a central moral value in the classical period, but it was dismissed from medieval, modern, and twentieth century moral theories. This book argues that this dismissal is unjustifiable. The validity of this claim is established in four steps. First, it proposes the concept of moral paradigm. This concept enables us to explore the source of moral value and to provide a criterion for the evaluation of the adequacy of moral theory. Second, the book explains why medieval, modern and twentieth century moral theorists neglected friendship as a central moral value in their analysis of moral behavior and why this neglect was unjustifiable. Third, it explains why the classical moral philosophers viewed friendship as a central moral value. Fourth, it argues that friendship is an ontological need,

therefore, a necessary condition of the moral life. This need is implicitly recognized in the moral paradigms that underlie the moral theories of the medieval, modern, and twentieth century moral theories. Accordingly it cannot be neglected in the process of moral theorizing.
