

1. Record Nr.	UNISA996248127103316
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Titolo	Reason, grace, and sentiment : a study of the language of religion and ethics in England, 1660-1780 . Volume 2 Shaftesbury to Hume // Isabel Rivers [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2000
ISBN	1-107-11163-3 1-280-16230-9 0-511-11598-9 0-511-06536-1 0-511-15089-X 0-511-31038-2 0-511-48447-X 0-511-06749-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiv, 386 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Cambridge studies in eighteenth-century English literature and thought ; ; 37
Disciplina	209/.42/09032
Soggetti	Religious thought - England - 17th century English language - Religious aspects - Christianity Religious thought - England - 18th century Christian ethics - England - History - 17th century Christian ethics - England - History - 18th century England Church history 17th century England Church history 18th century England Intellectual life 17th century England Intellectual life 18th century England Languages
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Half-title; Series-title; Title; Copyright; Dedication; Contents; Preface; Abbreviations; Introduction; 1 The true religion of nature: the freethinkers and their opponents; 2 Shaftesbury and the defence of

natural affection; 3 Defining the moral faculty: Hutcheson, Butler, and Price; 4 The ethics of sentiment and the religious hypothesis: Hume and his critics; 5 The conflict of languages in the later eighteenth century; Bibliography; Index

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## Sommario/riassunto

This volume completes Isabel Rivers' widely acclaimed exploration of the relationship between religion and ethics from the mid-seventeenth to the later eighteenth centuries. She investigates the effect of attempts to separate ethics from religion, and to locate the foundation of morals in the constitution of human nature. Focusing on moral philosophy and the educational institutions in which (or in spite of which) these ideas were developed, the book pays close attention to the movement of ideas through the British Isles, in particular the spread of Shaftesbury's thought from England to Ireland and Scotland, and the varied reception of Hume's scepticism north and south of the border. It also demonstrates the enormous influence of Shaftesbury's moral thought and the ultimate triumph of the English interpretation of Shaftesbury with the rise of Butler. Meticulously researched and accessibly written, this volume makes a vital contribution to our understanding of eighteenth-century thought.

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