The fragility of rightness. Adjudication and the primacy of practice

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Acknowledgments

Writing a dissertation has been, if anything, a humbling experience, first of all because of the (philosophical) richness of the literature that I found pertinent to my inquiry. This often gave me the sensation that I would do better to continue reading rather than start writing myself. Luckily I gradually managed to overcome some of my reluctance.\footnote{Yet, I do think that a period of silence can be a fitting expression of one’s respect for the quality of the tradition in which one participates. Unfortunately, the ‘out-put’ criteria that are presently in force in academia do hardly allow one to be hesitant about contributing.}

The process was also humbling because of all the support I received. I am grateful to many institutions and people. First of all I owe thanks to the Department of Law of the University of Amsterdam, which offered me a professional context in which I felt and still feel at home. I am grateful for the funding and the temporary relief from teaching, which allowed me to spend one semester at the Philosophy Department of Harvard University and another semester at the Philosophy Department of Chicago University. These semesters have been most fruitful, not in the least because of the inspiring courses I could attend and the wonderful intellectual environment.

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into the ‘tragic tradition’ in philosophy.

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