**Virtue (Ethics) and its Development**

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So far as mainstream Anglo-American philosophy is concerned the idea that

the best prospect for finding a rational basis for ethics may lie in the

notion of virtues as natural excellences originated in Elizabeth

Anscombe's essay 'Modern Moral Philosophy' (Philosophy, 1958).

Interestingly, however this is the most fragmentary and least clearly

articulated of the three theses presented there. In this discussion I will

explore the origins of Anscombe's essay, describing the circumstances that

led her to write it, and raise some challenges for virtue ethics,

including one which herself never mentioned but which arose in some of her

later writings, namely the question of the epistemology of virtue.