

## Baseball as a Road to God: Seeing Beyond the Game



A love letter to America's most beloved sport and an exploration of the deeper dimensions it reveals. For more than a decade, New York University president John Sexton has used baseball to illustrate the elements of a spiritual life in a wildly popular course at NYU. Using great works of baseball literature as well as the actual games' fantastic moments, its legendary characters, and its routine rituals - from the long-sought triumph of the 1955 Brooklyn Dodgers to the heroic achievements of players like the saintly Christy Mathewson and the sinful Ty Cobb to the loving intimacy of a game of catch between a father and son - Sexton teaches that through the game we can touch the spiritual dimensions of life. *Baseball as a Road to God* is about the elements of our lives that lie beyond what can be captured in words alone - ineffable truths that we know by experience rather than by logic or analysis. Applying the inquiry usually reserved for the study of religion to the secular activity of baseball, Sexton reveals a surprising amount of common ground between the game and what we all recognize as religion: sacred places and times, faith and doubt, blessings and curses, and more. In thought-provoking, beautifully rendered prose, *Baseball as a Road to God* elegantly demonstrates that baseball is more than a game or even a national pastime: It can be a road to a deeper and more meaningful life.

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pedagogical usefulness as a text in Philosophy of Sport and Philosophy