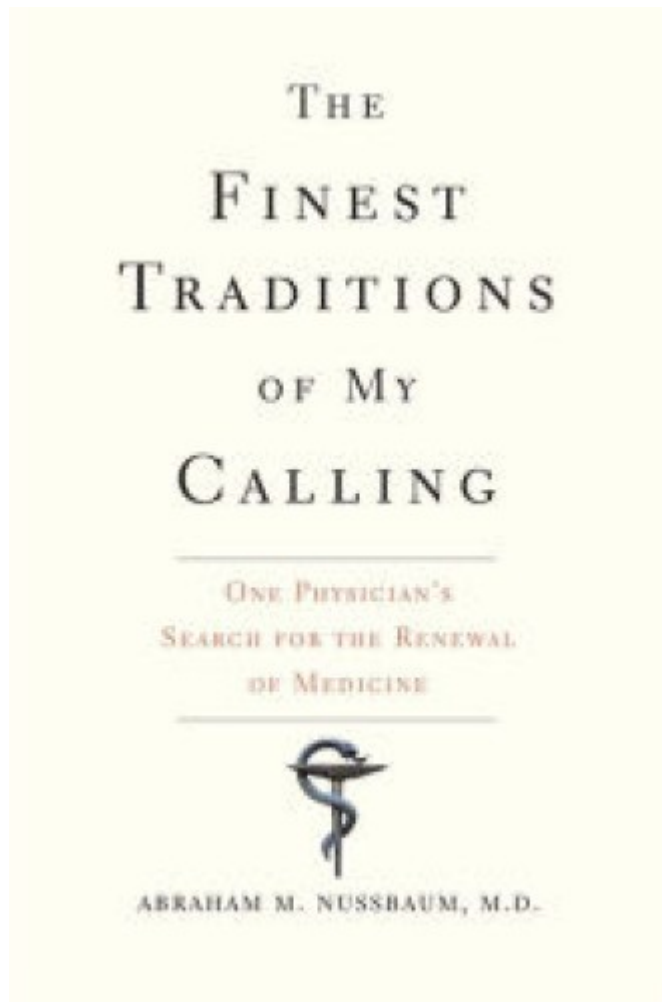


The Finest Traditions of My Calling, by Abraham M. Nussbaum

Books in the [April 27, 2016](#) issue

In Review



The Finest Traditions of My Calling

By Abraham M. Nussbaum

Yale University Press

Nussbaum, a psychiatrist who labels himself a “bad Catholic,” delves with religious fervor into the mystery of his calling to serve people who suffer. Guided by mentors like Basil of Caesarea, Hildegard of Bingen, and Stanley Hauerwas, he envisions

medical care as a precious craft honed by the development of virtue. Readers of various vocations are likely to find resonances in the book's attempt to balance professionalism with human relationship; its struggle with social injustice; and its creative exploration of metaphors for the doctor, including teacher, gardener, servant, and witness. "We live in bodies that grow, love, weaken, and die." In the face of this reality, we are called to care for one another with humility, courage, and compassion.