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Court D. Lewis (Ed.)

The Philosophy of Forgiveness - Volume I

Explorations of Forgiveness: Personal, Relational, and Religious

VERNON SERIES IN PHILOSOPHY OF FORGIVENESS

"Overall, I find this to be an excellent collection and a valuable contribution to scholarship in an important area that lacks similar collections.

"I think the focus on Hannah Arendt's relationship with Heidegger, and whether his sins are forgivable, makes a nice focus for one third of the articles. Of course there are the Christian-centered accounts, because forgiveness is so central in Christianity. But I also really enjoyed the final essay on Buddhism, and its suggestion that an enlightened soul would not need to forgive.

"I think the collection will appeal to many scholars working in philosophy and religion who are interested in forgiveness, a topic that increasingly interests modern scholars."

Gregory Pence,
Professor & Chair, UAB Philosophy
Director, Early Medical Acceptance Program

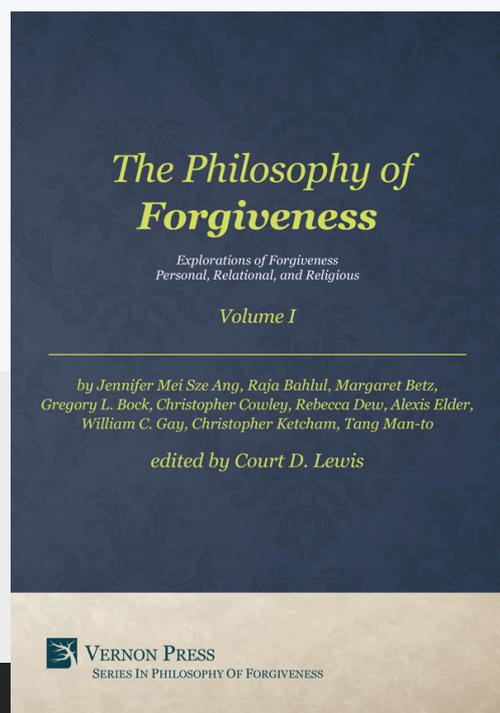
Summary

The Philosophy of Forgiveness is multi-dimensional and complex. As recent scholarly philosophical works on forgiveness illustrate, incorporating personal, relational, political, ethical, psychological, and religious dimensions into one consistent conception of "forgiveness" is difficult. As part of Vernon Press's series on the Philosophy of Forgiveness, *Explorations of Forgiveness: Personal, Relational, and Religious* begins the task of creating a consistent multidimensional account of forgiveness by bringing together multiple voices from around the globe to analyze, discuss, and draw conclusions about how best to understand forgiveness. The volume's three opening chapters examine forgiveness as a relational

concept, and offer insights into the role of forgiveness in repairing, sustaining, stewarding, and healing relationships damaged by wrongdoing. Continuing with the relational theme, the next four chapters incorporate Hannah Arendt's philosophical teachings (both her writings and her life) into the discussion to offer several intriguing conclusions relating to "unforgivable" persons and acts. The final chapters examine the nature of forgiveness from three major world religions: Buddhism, Christianity, and Confucianism.

About the editor

Court Lewis received his Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee, where he specialized in Ethics, Justice, and Forgiveness. He became interested in forgiveness studies while studying mass atrocities and social oppression in 20th Century Europe, especially after reading Simon Wiesenthal's *The Sunflower*. His philosophical work on Justice and Rights introduced him to Nicholas Wolterstorff's ethical concept *eirenéism*—a peace-based theory of rights. Combining *eirenéism* with the concept of forgiveness, Court developed a rights-based ethic of forgiveness. His research was featured in his dissertation, was the basis for a Capstone Philosophy course at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, which featured visiting speakers working on forgiveness, such as Martha Nussbaum, and portions of it have appeared in scholarly peer-reviewed journals such as *Philosophia: Philosophical Quarterly of Israel*. He is currently completing a monograph on his research. Court is Program Coordinator and Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Owensboro Community and Technical College.



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