

ANCIENT FORGIVENESS

Charles L. Griswold • David Konstan

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In this book, eminent scholars of classical antiquity and ancient and medieval Judaism and Christianity explore the nature and place of forgiveness in the pre-modern Western world. They examine the concept in the contexts of classical Greece and Rome; the Hebrew Bible, the Talmud, and Moses Maimonides; and the New Testament, the Church Fathers, and Thomas Aquinas.

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Ancient Forgiveness

Classical, Judaic, and Christian

Edited by

Charles L. Griswold
Boston University

David Konstan
New York University

“When and how did forgiveness become recognized as a moral attribute? The question has vexed – and divided – commentators for some years. This book admirably addresses the question in a series of wide-ranging chapters by a variety of experts. The editors have done the world of scholarship a great service by offering what I believe are now the definitive answers.”

–Anthony Bash, Durham University

“This book seeks to reveal the relationship between conceptual and historical inquiry. Its excellent chapters offer, through a series of well-chosen examples, an illuminating promenade from Homer to Maimonides and Thomas Aquinas, through Seneca, Jesus and the Rabbis, on a topic of at once perennial and contemporary great significance. The book opens up new vistas for the interdisciplinary study of the roots of Western cultural tropes. It is significant, in particular, that the editors, a classicist and a philosopher, recognize the necessity to integrate Jewish and Christian approaches, side by side with the Greco-Roman tradition, in order to decipher our own cultural inheritance.”

–Guy Stroumsa, Oxford University

“Two distinguished scholars have invited scholars of comparable distinction to contribute essays that discuss the history of forgiveness (or what might mistakenly be taken as forgiveness if we hastily project contemporary understandings) from ancient Greece and Rome, through medieval Judaism, and concluding with Aquinas. This book confirms L. P. Hartley’s famous remark that ‘the past is a foreign country: they do things differently there’ and reveals this foreign country as a fascinating place from which all who are interested in forgiveness can learn a great deal.”

–Jeffrie G. Murphy, Arizona State University

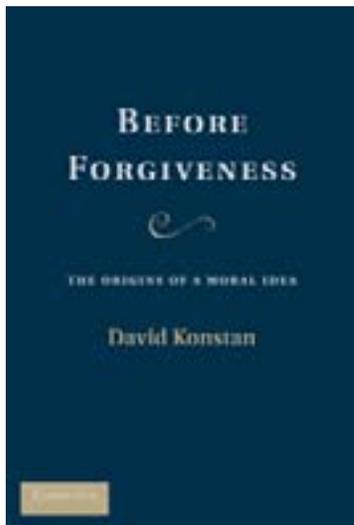
“This volume, edited by two experts on forgiveness, is a rich and timely work treating the emotion and different conceptions of it in the ancient Greek, Roman, and Judeo-Christian traditions. It should appeal to graduate students and scholars in classics, philosophy, religious studies, and Judaic studies.”

–Ruth Caston, University of Michigan

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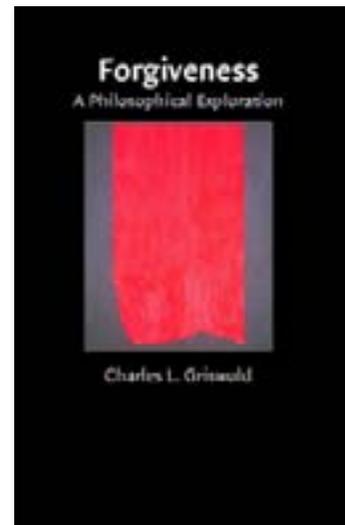
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