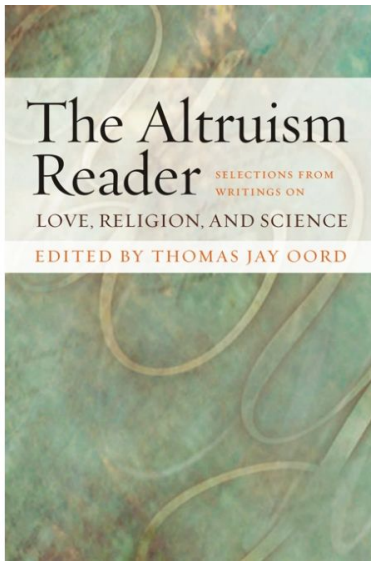




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The Altruism Reader

Selections from Writings on Love, Religion, and Science

Edited by Thomas Oord

DESCRIPTION

This anthology brings together, for the first time, leading essays and book chapters from theologians, philosophers, and scientists on their research on ethics, altruism, and love. Because the general consensus today is that scholarship in moral theory requires empirical research, the arguments of the leading scholars presented in this book will be fundamental to those examining issues in love, ethics, religion, and science.

The first half of *The Altruism Reader* offers essential selections from religious texts, leading contemporary scholars, and cutting-edge ethicists. Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism are represented. Among the highly respected writers are Thomas Aquinas, the Dalai Lama, Thich Nhat Hanh, John Polkinghorne, Stephen Pope, Louis Fischer, Amira Shamma Abdin, Katharine Doob Sakenfeld, and Daniel Day Williams.

The book's second half features primary readings on love and altruism from the sciences. Here the focus is on anthropology, psychology, sociology, biology, and neurology, with material written by Daniel C. Batson, David Sloan Wilson, Robert Wright, Stephen G. Post, Robert Axelrod, Richard Dawkins, Holmes Rolston III, and other renowned scientists and philosophers.

“Virtually all people act—and often talk—as if they have some clue about love. We speak about loving food, falling in love, loving God, feeling loved, and loving a type of music. We say that love hurts, love waits, love stinks, and love means never having to say you’re sorry. We use the word and its derivatives in a wide variety of ways . . . My definition of love is this: To love is to act intentionally, in sympathetic response to others (including God), to promote well-being.” —Thomas Jay Oord

Paperback

9781599471273, \$42.95

eBook

9781599472218, \$42.95

Date: November 2007

Pages: 320



AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

Thomas Jay Oord, PhD, is professor of theology and philosophy at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho. In addition to books published by Templeton Press, Dr. Oord has written and edited nearly twenty books, including *Defining Love: A Philosophical, Scientific, and Theological Engagement* (Brazos Press) and *The Nature of Love: A Theology* (Chalice Press). He and his wife, Cheryl, have three daughters.

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