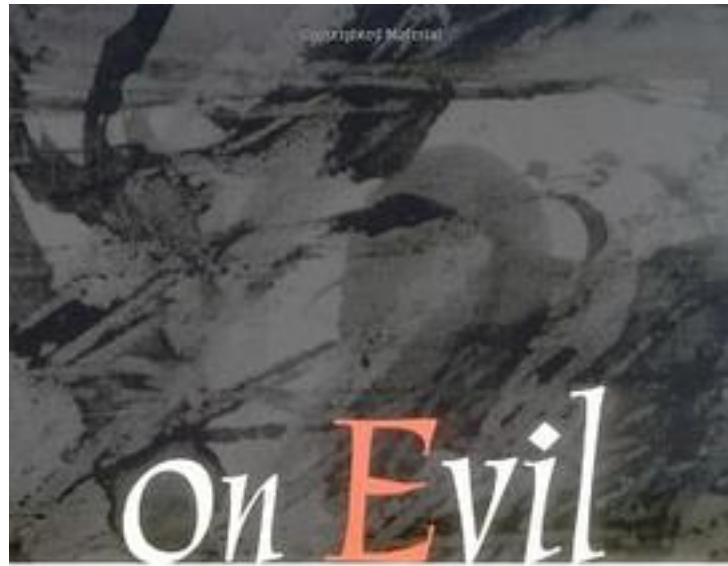


# On Evil



*Thomas Aquinas*

Translated by Richard Regan  
Edited with an Introduction and  
Notes by Brian Davies

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Evil has long fascinated psychologists, philosophers, novelists and playwrights but remains an incredibly difficult concept to talk about.

On Evil is a compelling and at times disturbing tour of the many faces of evil. What is evil, and what makes people do awful things? If we can explain evil, do we explain it away? Can we imagine the mind of a serial killer, or does such evil defy description? Does evil depend on a contrast with good, as religion tells us, or can there be evil for evil's sake?

Adam Morton argues that any account of evil must help us understand three things: why evil occurs; why evil often arises out of banal or everyday situations; and how we can be seen as evil. Drawing on fascinating examples as diverse as Augustine, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, psychological studies of deviant behaviour and profiles of serial killers, Adam Morton argues that evil occurs when internal, mental barriers against it simply break down. He also introduces us to some nightmare people, such as Adolf Eichmann and Hannibal Lecter, reminding us that understanding their actions as humans brings us closer to understanding evil.

Exciting and thought-provoking, On Evil is essential reading for anyone interested in a topic that attracts and repels us in equal measure.

作者介绍:

关于作者

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目录:

[On Evil 下载链接1](#)

标签

邪恶

心理學

## 评论

邪恶是什么？这书并没给出答案，但颇有启发作用。个人意见：第一，动机重于结果，因冲动误杀十个人不比预谋杀害一个人邪恶。第二，手段重于目的，不管目的多正确都不能合理化手段的邪恶，只要手段邪恶，结果亦必定邪恶。第三，只要条件具足情景配合，人人都可能踏入邪恶之门。第四，邪恶不是精神病，而是正常人的不正常状态，因此有些邪恶或许不能被原谅，但能够被理解。第五，邪恶源于恐惧，内心越多恐惧，越容易进入邪恶。第六，消灭恐惧就是消灭邪恶。消灭恐惧只有一途，就是看穿恐惧的虚幻性。从个人做起的话，就是时刻保持觉察，吾日三省吾身，减少无意识的状态。

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## 书评

### 关于邪恶 桀心

在我们享受愉悦的时光，沉浸于祥和的气氛里时，或许在某个阴暗的角落，甚至就在身边，有人身处痛苦的深渊，时刻发出呻吟，忍受着邪恶的折磨。  
为此，叔本华极端地下了个结论：“任何哲学，如果人们在其字里行间无法听到流泪、哭喊、牙齿的打颤，以及可怕的喧嚣， ...

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