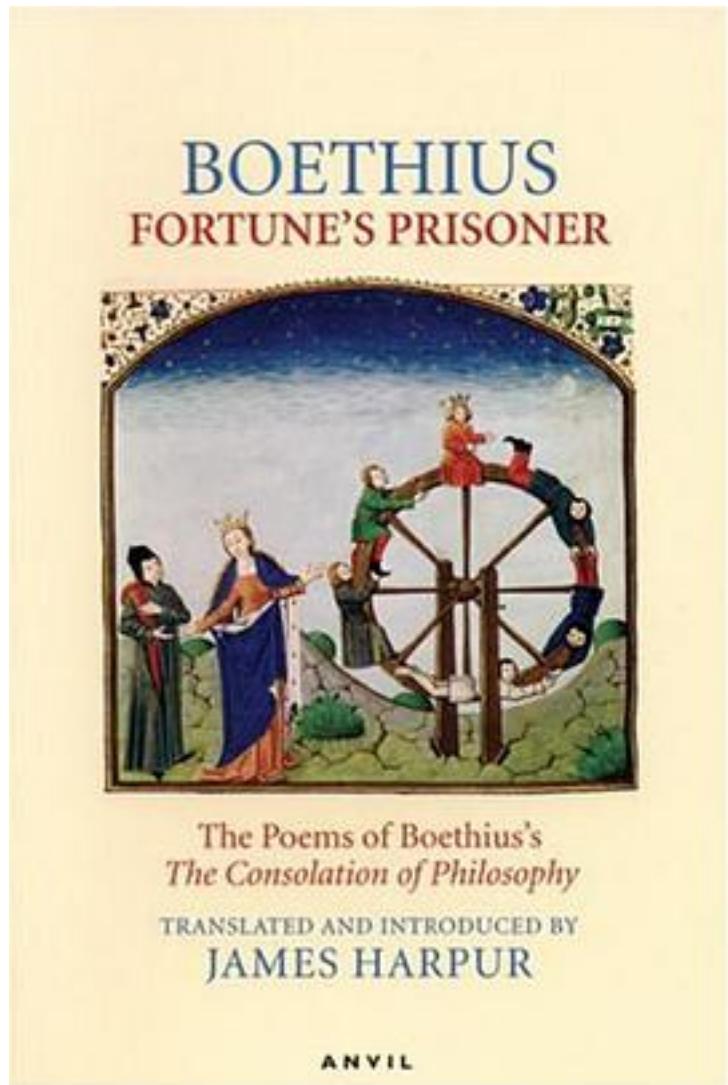


# Fortune's Prisoner



The Poems of Boethius's  
*The Consolation of Philosophy*

TRANSLATED AND INTRODUCED BY  
JAMES HARPUR

ANVIL

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An aristocratic scholar and influential member of the court of Theodoric, Boethius (born about AD 480) was arrested for alleged treason and executed in about 524. While in prison he wrote his masterpiece, "The Consolation of Philosophy", a work of mixed prose and verse in which he considers universal issues such as the nature of justice, the problem of evil in a world controlled by God's providential plan, and the workings of Fortune and free will. With his fresh and imaginative treatment of the poems from this book, James Harpur argues for the reappraisal of Boethius as poet. His well-crafted modern translations and persuasive introduction encourage their reading as a coherent poetic sequence outside their original context.

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