

RADICAL EVIL AND THE SCARCITY OF HOPE

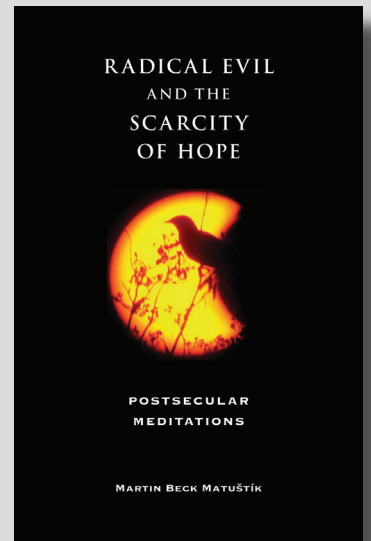
Postsecular Meditations

Martin Beck Matušík

"Very deep, indeed profound . . . it takes critical social theory into not only a new place, but also a place where it absolutely needs to go." —Bill Martin, DePaul University

No one will deny that we live in a world where evil exists. But how are we to come to grips with human atrocity and its diabolical intensity? Martin Beck Matušík considers evil to be even more radically evil than previously thought and to have become all too familiar in everyday life. While we can name various moral wrongs and specific cruelties, Matušík maintains that radical evil understood as a religious phenomenon requires a religious response where the language of hope, forgiveness, redemption, and love can take us beyond unspeakable harm and irreparable violence. Drawing upon the work of Kant, Schelling, Kierkegaard, Levinas, Derrida, and Marion, this work is written as a series of meditations. Matušík presents a bold, new way of dealing with one of humanity's most intractable problems.

Martin Beck Matušík is Professor of Philosophy at Purdue University. He is author of *Jürgen Habermas: A Philosophical-Political Profile* and *Specters of Liberation*. He has edited (with Merold Westphal) *Kierkegaard in Post/Modernity* (IUP, 1995).



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