

### **John Milbank, *Being Reconciled: Ontology and Pardon* (2003)**

John Milbank's *Being Reconciled: Ontology and Pardon* is a daring theological project which puts the classic theory of the Gift in conversation with contemporary engagements with the notion of divine reconciliation. His project is conceived in the light of recent works by Derrida, Levinas, Marion, Žižek, and other members of what he terms the 'Radical Evil' school. The presence of evil and violence in the world is conceived as a refusal of the gifts from the divine. By re-interpreting the world through theological completeness, we are able to receive the divine gift of forgiveness and find a pathway towards redemption for humanity.

Milbank's work is of interest to anyone who engages in the issues of language, culture, time, politics, and historicity. His critique of post-Kantian modernity keeps the divine as infinite at the forefront of his interpretive process. Novel human undertakings are dependent on a subtle orientation towards God as that which gives us the potential for growing new capacities, understandings, and other forms of being-in-the-world.