

Before God

(In progress, London: Rowman & Littlefield)

Steven DeLay



An April Shower, William Turner

The nine essays in *Before God* are an effort to reawaken an appreciation of what it is to live in the presence of God, to recognize that our most intimate mode of existence is not one of being-in-the-world only. Surmounting received divisions between philosophy and theology, they explore the relation we have to God and others, tracing a path instituted in antiquity and latent still in certain strands of contemporary phenomenology. After two introductory explorations of the ancient conception of philosophy as a way of life that undermines the modern notion of philosophy as methodologically atheist, the third chapter raises the question of our relation to others through an assessment of how, paradoxically, we are together in the world yet ever alone. This theme of our relation to others is deepened with an analysis of forgiveness in its various forms. The theme is continued in the next chapter's discussion of peace, which is seen to prove so elusive because of the omnipresence of evil in the world, a fact which itself is explored in connection to the varieties of silence we encounter throughout our daily lives. Utilizing these results from the preceding chapters on forgiveness, peace, and silence, the last three chapters set out to inquire into perennial questions as immortality, doubt, and deception. Drawing together the previous results, the final one expounds on the view of man which has emerged: we utterly are open to a God who in Jesus Christ calls each of us back to ourselves.

Chapter One
Divine Things and the Fluidity of Thought
Chapter Two
The Interlacement of Self and God
Chapter Three
What is the Problem of Intersubjectivity?
Chapter Four
Forgiveness
Chapter Five
Making Peace
Chapter Six
A Sketch of Silence and Evil
Chapter Seven
Metaphysics and Immortality
Chapter Eight
Nietzsche and the Genealogy of a Lie
Chapter Nine
The Light that Lights Every Man

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28