

# The Philosophy Of Tolkien Worldview Behind Lord Rings Peter Kreeft

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*Following Gandalf* - Matthew T. Dickerson 2003

In this new work, Dickerson offers a specifically Christian exploration of morality, choices, and free will in "The Lord of the Rings."

[Inklings on Philosophy and Worldview](#) - Matthew

Dominguez 2020-08-04

Teens live in a complicated world. They are constantly bombarded by messages from their friends, parents, teachers, the internet, and their churches, and not all of these messages agree or line up with each other. How do students

figure out who to listen to? How do they figure out what is true? *Inklings on Philosophy and Worldview* will show teens practical ways to filter out the wrong messages and focus on what is real. Using teachings from highly respected, loved, and well-known writers, teacher Matthew Dominguez will show teens the power of story as he guides them through a study of world religions, philosophies, and worldview, and gives them a firm foundation to stand on as they prepare to face the world. *From Homer to Harry Potter* - Matthew Dickerson 2006-05 Explores the impact and importance of Greek mythology, Arthurian legend, fairy tales, and other works of fantasy on the literary culture of today.

*Jacob's Ladder* - Peter Kreeft  
2013-01-01

There are ten important questions everyone should ask; and the answers to these questions, which lead to ultimate truth, are a matter of reason, not of faith. Well-known Catholic philosopher and writer

Peter Kreeft tackles each of these questions in a logical step-by-step way, like climbing the rungs of a ladder. Because questions are best answered by dialogue, Kreeft answers these fundamental questions in an imaginary conversation between two very different people who meet at the beach. Kreeft's characters begin at the beginning, at the bottom of the ladder, which is the passion for truth. When it comes to the most important questions a person can ask, no mere interest in philosophical dabbling will do. The passion for truth does not stop there, however, but carries the reader from one page to the next in this thought-provoking adventure of the mind. Among the topics, or steps, that Kreeft's characters delve into include: Do you have the passion to know? Does truth exist? What is the meaning of life? What is love, and why is it so important for our lives? If there is a God, what proof is there for his existence? Has God revealed himself to us in a personal way? And many other

important questions and topics to help climb the ladder to the truth about life

C. S. Lewis - Peter Kreeft  
2011-06-30

Why another book about C. S. Lewis? The answer is simple: C. S. Lewis: A Critical Essay is the most concise and vivid introduction to the life and writings of the greatest Christian apologist of the twentieth century. First published over forty years ago, and now updated to include an entirely new essay by the author, Kreeft's book wisely allows Lewis to speak for himself through a series of judiciously chosen quotations. C. S. Lewis: A Critical Essay is a memorable tribute from one of today's foremost Christian apologists—whose own writings have often been compared to those of Lewis—to his acknowledged master.

**The Ring and the Cross** -  
Paul E. Kerry 2011

The influence of J.R.R Tolkien's Christianity on his writing has sparked intense discussion and debate. What has been lacking is a forum for a civilized

discussion about the topic, as well as a chronological overview of the major arguments and themes that have engaged scholars about the impact of Christianity on Tolkein's oeuvre, with particular reference to The Lord of the Rings. The Ring and the Cross addresses these two needs.

The Good News of the Return of the King - Michael T. Jahosky  
2020-09-15

Although many people today reject Christianity for intellectual reasons, greater numbers of people are rejecting Christianity because it does not engage their imagination. Christians must not only demonstrate that the Christian worldview is true, but that it is also good, beautiful, and relevant. The Good News of the Return of the King: The Gospel in Middle-earth is a book that endeavors to show the truth, goodness, and beauty of Jesus Christ, the gospel, and the biblical metanarrative by engaging the imagination through J. R. R. Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings, as well as

The Hobbit and The Silmarillion. In this book, I propose that J. R. R. Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings is a story about what Jesus' parables are about: the good news about the return of the king. As a work of imaginative fiction similar to Jesus' parables, The Lord of the Rings can bypass both intellectual and imaginative objections to the gospel and pull back the "veil of familiarity" that obscures the gospel for many.

### **On the Shoulders of Hobbits**

- Louis Markos 2012-09-14

The world of J. R. R. Tolkien is filled with strange creatures, elaborately crafted lore, ancient tongues, and magic that exists only in fantasy; yet the lessons taught by hobbits and wizards speak powerfully and practically to our real lives. Courage, valor, trust, pride, greed, and jealousy--these are not fictional virtues. This is the stuff of real life, the Christian life. Professor and author Louis Markos takes us on the road with Tolkien and C. S. Lewis, with looks at selected classic works of literature as well, to

show how great stories bring us so much more than entertainment. They inspire and convict, imparting truth in unforgettable ways. Rediscover the virtue of great storytelling and the power of fantasy to transform our reality.

**Frodo's Journey** - Joseph Pearce 2015-06-10

J. R. R. Tolkien's magnum opus, The Lord of the Rings has been beloved for generations, selling millions of copies and selling millions more tickets through its award-winning film adaptations. The immense cultural impact of this epic is undeniable, but the deeper meaning of the story often goes unnoticed. Here, Joseph Pearce, author of Bilbo's Journey uncovers the rich—and distinctly Christian—meaning just beneath the surface of The Lord of the Rings. Make the journey with Frodo as he makes his perilous trek from the Shire to Mordor, while Pearce expertly reveals the deeper, spiritual significance. Did you know that the events of The Lord of the Rings are deeply intertwined with the

Christian calendar? Or what the Ring, with its awesome and terrible power represents? How do the figures of good and evil in the story reflect those forces in our own lives? Find the answers to these questions and much more in Frodo's Journey.

The Philosophy of Tolkien - Peter Kreeft 2005

While nothing can equal or replace the adventure in reading Tolkien's masterwork, The Lord of the Rings, Peter Kreeft says that the journey into its underlying philosophy can be another exhilarating adventure. Thus, Kreeft takes the reader on a voyage of discovery into the philosophical bones of Middle earth. He organizes the philosophical themes in The Lord of the Rings into 50 categories, accompanied by over 1,000 references to the text of Lord. Since many of the great questions of philosophy are included in the 50-theme outline, this book can also be read as an engaging introduction to philosophy. For each of the philosophical topics

in Lord, Kreeft presents tools by which they can be understood. Illustrated.

**The Journey** - Peter Kreeft 1997-01-02

Peter Kreeft invites seekers to accompany Socrates on the search for truth. With sharp questions and canny wit he will coach you past the winsome, the wily and the half-wise spin-doctors of error who populate the ancient byways. In classic Kreeftian style, this narrative entertains even as it provides a convincing apologetic.

**Ask Peter Kreeft** - Peter Kreeft 2019-08-08

I've given thousands of lectures around the country to engaged, thoughtful, curious university and church audiences and have always made it a practice to allow for as many questions as possible. Here are the most interesting ones I've been asked, and the answers I gave. Of course, as real questions from real people, they're an eclectic mix, ranging from questions about God and sex and sin and suffering to those about heaven, my favorite movies, even surfing! Some of

the questions and answers are easy, some hard; some profound, some silly; some tragic, some funny; most of them thought-provoking and all of them, I hope, entertaining.

**Heaven, the Heart's Deepest Longing** - Peter Kreeft

1989-01-01

A major book on the subject of heaven, this expanded edition examines the hunger for heaven that is so strong in all of us. Fascinating and upbeat, *Heaven, the Heart's Deepest Longing* thoroughly explores the psychological and theological dimensions of this search for total joy and for the ultimate reality that grounds it.

*Symbol or Substance?* - Peter Kreeft 2019-02-19

In this engaging fictional conversation, Peter Kreeft gives credible voices to C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, and Billy Graham as they discuss one of the most contentious questions in the history of Christianity: Is Jesus symbolically or substantially present in the Eucharist? These widely respected modern Christian witnesses represent

three important Western theological traditions. Graham, an ordained Southern Baptist minister who traversed the world and the airwaves to spread the good news of salvation, represents evangelical Protestantism.

Lewis, an Oxford professor, a prolific Christian apologist, and the author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, was a member of the Church of England. Also an Oxford don, Tolkien was a friend of Lewis, the author of *The Lord of the Rings*, and a Roman Catholic. While Lewis and Tolkien likely discussed the Eucharist during their long friendship, the conversation in this book never took place—but it could have, says Kreeft, who faithfully presents the views of these three impressive men.

*Letters to an Atheist* - Peter Kreeft 2014-09-30

In *Letters to an Atheist*, Peter Kreeft corresponds with a fictional young atheist to wrestle with the primary reasons for not believing in God. With characteristic warmth and clarity, Kreeft's letters explore the arguments

for God as well as dismantling the arguments against. From explaining the problem of evil to reconciling science and religion, Kreeft's compelling letters offer believers and non-believers alike much to consider.

### **Celebrating Middle-Earth -**

John G. West 2002

"An examination of the writings of J.R.R. Tolkien as a defense of the literary, philosophical, political, and religious foundations of Western society"--Half t.p.

*The Gospel According to*

*Tolkien* - Ralph C. Wood 2003

### **Socrates Meets Marx - Peter Kreeft 2003**

Utilizing the dialogue format that the Greek philosopher made famous, Kreeft presents the latest in his series of small books on philosophy. In a unique and compelling take on the philosophies of the modern world, Kreeft pits the ancient Greek philosopher against the founder of Communism. Humorous, frank, and insightful, this book challenges the reader to step in and take

hold of what is right and to cast away what is wrong. Topics covered include such varied subjects as private property, the individual, the "Three Philosophies of Man," women, individualism, and more. A wonderful introduction to philosophy for the neophyte, and a joy for the experienced student.

*The Lord of the Rings and Philosophy* - Gregory Bassham  
2013-11-13

The Lord of the Rings is intended to be applicable to the real world of relationships, religion, pleasure, pain, and politics. Tolkien himself said that his grand tale of wizards, orcs, hobbits, and elves was aimed at truth and good morals in the actual world. Analysis of the popular appeal of The Lord of the Rings (on websites and elsewhere) shows that Tolkien fans are hungry for discussion of the urgent moral and cosmological issues arising out of this fantastic epic story. Can political power be wielded for good, or must it always corrupt? Does technology destroy the truly human? Is it

morally wrong to give up hope? Can we find meaning in chance events? In *The Lord of the Rings and Philosophy*, seventeen young philosophy professors, all of them ardent Tolkien fans and most of them contributors to the four earlier volumes in the *Popular Culture and Philosophy* series, address some of these important issues and show how clues to their solutions may be found in the imaginary world of Middle-earth. The book is divided into five sections, concerned with Power and the Ring, the Quest for Happiness, Good and Evil in Middle-earth, Time and Mortality, and the Relevance *A Hobbit Journey* - Matthew Dickerson 2012-09-01

The Lord of the Rings trilogy has delighted millions of fans worldwide in book and movie form. With the theatrical release of the two-part film *The Hobbit* slated for 2012 and 2013, attention will once again turn to J. R. R. Tolkien's classic works. In a culture where truth is relative and morality is viewed as old-fashioned, we welcome the chance to view

the world through hobbit eyes: we have free will, our choices matter, and living a morally heroic life is possible. In this engaging and thought-provoking book, Tolkien expert Matthew Dickerson shows how a Christian worldview and Christian themes undergird Tolkien's Middle-earth writings and how they are fundamentally important to understanding his vision. This revised and expanded edition of *Following Gandalf* includes new material on torture, social justice, and the importance of the body.

[Your Questions, God's Answers](#)  
- Peter Kreeft, Ph.D.

2017-06-19

Kreeft uses Scripture to provide God's answers to the most common and important questions young people ask about the deeper meaning of life, their own identity, overcoming failure and temptation, the mystery of God's love, and much more. But these are questions asked not just by teens - they are the same questions adults often ask, and God's answers, as

found in the Bible, respond to the deepest needs of people of all ages.

### **Tolkien: Man and Myth -**

Joseph Pearce 2019-07-02

J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* took first place in several nationwide British polls on the "greatest book of the century". He may be the most popular writer of our age, but Tolkien is often misunderstood. This major new study of his life, his character, and his work reveals the facts and confronts the myths. It explores the man's background and the culture in which he wrote.

*Tolkien: Man and Myth* observes the relationships that the master writer had with his closest literary colleagues. It sheds light on his unique relationship with C. S. Lewis, the writer of the Narnia books, and the roots of their eventual estrangement. In this original book about a leading literary life, Joseph Pearce enters the world that Tolkien created in the seven books published during his lifetime. He explores the significance of Middle Earth and what it represented

in Tolkien's thinking. Myth, to this legendary author, was not a leap from reality but a leap into reality. The impact of Tolkien's great notoriety, his relationship with material possessions, and his deep religious faith are all examined at length in this biography, making it possible to understand both the man and the myth that he created.

*Mere Humanity* - Donald T. Williams 2006

Williams delves into the writings of G. K. Chesterton, C. S. Lewis, and J. R. R. Tolkien for answers about the purpose of man and his life on earth.

*The Hobbit Party* - Jay Richards 2014-09-18

Anyone who has read *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* can gather that their author hated tyranny, but few know that the novelist who once described himself as a hobbit Òin all but size Ò was Ñeven by hobbit standards Ña zealous proponent of economic freedom and small government. There is a growing concern among many that the West is sliding into

political, economic, and moral bankruptcy. In his beloved novels of Middle-Earth, J.R.R. Tolkien has drawn us a map to freedom. Scholar Joseph Pearce, who himself has written articles and chapters on the political significance of Tolkien's work, testified in his book *Literary Giants, Literary Catholics*, "If much has been written on the religious significance of *The Lord of the Rings*, less has been written on its political significance—and the little that has been written is often erroneous in its conclusions and ignorant of Tolkien's intentions." Much more work is needed in this area, not least because Tolkien stated, implicitly at least, that the political significance of the work was second only to the religious in its importance. Several books ably explore how Tolkien's Catholic faith informed his fiction. None until now have centered on how his passion for liberty and limited government also shaped his work, or how this passion grew directly from his theological vision of man and creation. The

*Hobbit Party* fills this void. The few existing pieces that do focus on the subject are mostly written by scholars with little or no formal training in literary analysis, and even less training in political economy. Witt and Richards bring to *The Hobbit Party* a combined expertise in literary studies, political theory, economics, philosophy, and theology.

[Creation and Beauty in Tolkien's Catholic Vision](#) -  
Michael John Halsall  
2020-01-02

This book invites readers into Tolkien's world through the lens of a variety of philosophers, all of whom owe a rich debt to the Neoplatonic philosophical tradition. It places Tolkien's mythology against a wider backdrop of Catholic philosophy and asks serious questions about the nature of creation, the nature of God, what it means to be good, and the problem of evil. Halsall sets Tolkien alongside both his contemporaries and ancient authors, revealing his careful use of literary devices inspired by them to craft his

own "mythology for England."  
*Tolkien--a Celebration* - Joseph Pearce 2001

Anticipating the great amount of interest in Tolkien's writings due in part to the major theatrical movie release on his classic *The Lord of the Rings*, this highly readable collection of writings celebrates J.R.R.Tolkien's great literary legacy and the spiritual values that undergird his imaginary Middle-earth. *Tolkien: A Celebration* includes personal recollections by George Sayer and Walter Hooper, and many fascinating pieces by authors such as James Schall, S.J., Stratford Caldecott and Stephen Lawhead, exploring the threads of inspiration and purpose in his major works. These dip into subjects such as *The Sense of Time in Lord of the Rings*, *Tolkien: Master of Middle-earth*, and *Tolkien, Lewis and Christian Myth*. Fourteen writers contributed to this insightful work on Tolkien, and it will be much-treasured by those who regard him as a literary hero. - Publisher.  
*Lord of the Rings and the*

*Eucharist* - Scott L. Smith, Jr.  
2018-01-02

What is "the one great thing to love on earth", according to J. R. R. Tolkien, the author of *The Lord of the Rings*? The *Eucharist*! Tolkien made sure his one great love was woven throughout his books. It's easy to find if you know where to look. In Smith's new book, find Tolkien's hidden *Eucharist*! *The Lord of the Rings* can't be fully understood without understanding its hidden Eucharistic significance. What's more, perhaps: J. R. R. Tolkien can't be fully understood apart from his Catholic identity and his devotion to the *Eucharist*. Are you ready to read *Lord of the Rings* like you never have before?

**Wisdom from the Psalms** -

Peter Kreeft 2020-08-25  
*The Psalms* make up the most popular, most universally loved and used book in the Bible, which is the most widely read book in the world. They are hymns, songs, poems, and prayers—at once formal and informal, liturgical and

spontaneous, communal and individual. As a result, they have many layers of meaning. In this work, Peter Kreeft focuses on a dozen of the best-known psalms, including Psalms 23 and 51. He leads the reader through his personal explorations of this deep ocean of divinely inspired spiritual water, pulling up treasures for the soul along the way. "What prayers did Jesus and his disciples pray? The Psalms! As all Jews have always done ever since they had them. The Psalms are God's answer to our plea, 'Teach us to pray.' Christ prayed them not only in the synagogue but throughout His life, and at his death." — Peter Kreeft, from the Introduction

[The Power of the Ring](#) - Stratford Caldecott 2012-12-04  
Digging deep into J. R. R. Tolkien's spiritual biography—his religious scholarship and his love of both Christian and pagan myth—Stratford Caldecott offers a critical study of how the acclaimed author effectively created a vivid Middle Earth using the familiar

rites and ceremonies of human history. And while readers and moviegoers alike may appreciate the fantasy world of The Hobbit and the Lord of the Rings trilogy, few know that in life, Tolkien was a devout Roman Catholic and that the characters, the events, and the general morality of each novel are informed by the dogmas of his faith. Revised and updated, this acclaimed study of Tolkien's achievement—previously released as Secret Fire in the UK—includes commentary on Peter Jackson's film adaptations and explores many of the fascinating stories and letters published after Tolkien's death.

**The Battle for Middle-earth** - Fleming Rutledge 2004-11-04  
Fleming Rutledge discovers the deeper religious meaning behind Tolkien's masterpiece.

**Lord of the Elves and Eldils** - Richard Purtill 2011-05-09  
A fascinating look at the fantasy and philosophy of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R Tolkien. The two men were friends and fellow professors at Oxford,

renowned Christian thinkers who both "found it necessary to create for the purposes of their fiction other worlds—not utopias or dystopias, but different worlds.

*Philosophy 101 by Socrates* - Peter Kreeft 2002

The popular author and Boston College philosophy professor, Kreeft, presents this introduction to philosophy to help beginners not only to understand philosophy but to fall in love with it. In his forty years of teaching philosophy, Kreeft says the most effective way to accomplish this purpose is to read Socrates. Philosophy means "the love of wisdom." Kreeft uses the dialogues of Socrates in this book to help the reader grow in that love of wisdom. He says that no master of the art of philosophizing has ever been more simple, clear, and accessible to beginners as Socrates. He focuses on Plato's dialogues, the Apology of Socrates, as a model partner for the reader to dialogue with. Kreeft calls it "the Magna Carta of philosophy," a timeless

classic that is "a portable classroom."

Tolkien's Sacramental Vision - Craig Bernthal 2014-06-14

One of Tolkien's great appeals to readers is that he offers a world replete with meaning at every level. To read and reread Tolkien is to share his sense of wonder and holiness, to be invited into the presence of a "beauty beyond the circles of the world." It is to fall in love with a universe that has a beginning and an end, where good and bad are not subjective choices, but objective realities; a created order full of grace, though damaged by sin, in which friendship is the seedbed of the virtues, and where the greatest warriors finally become the greatest healers. A correspondent once told J. R. R. Tolkien that his work seemed illumined "by an invisible lamp." That lamp is the Church, and its light is the imaginative sensibility that we live in a sacramental world. This new book by the author of *The Trial of Man* examines in depth the influence of Catholic

sacramentality on the thought and work of Tolkien, with major emphasis on The Lord of the Rings, but including his literary essays, epistolary poem "Mythopoeia," short story "Leaf by Niggle," and The Silmarillion. Here is a signal contribution to a deeper understanding of Tolkien, whose mythological world is meant to "recover" the meaning of our own as a grace-filled place, pointing toward its Creator.

### The Messiah Comes to Middle-Earth - Philip Ryken

2017-11-14

Can The Lord of the Rings help us understand the Christian faith more deeply? From the inaugural Hansen Lectureship series, Wheaton College president Philip Ryken mines the riches of Tolkien's theological imagination. In the characters of Gandalf, Frodo, and Aragorn, Ryken hears echoes of the one who is the true prophet, priest, and king, considering what that threefold office means for the calling of all Christians.

### **The Philosophy of Tolkien** -

Peter Kreeft 2009-09-03

While nothing can equal or replace the adventure in reading Tolkien's masterwork, The Lord of the Rings, Peter Kreeft says that the journey into its underlying philosophy can be another exhilarating adventure. Thus, Kreeft takes the reader on a voyage of discovery into the philosophical bones of Middle earth. He organizes the philosophical themes in The Lord of the Rings into 50 categories, accompanied by over 1,000 references to the text of Lord. Since many of the great questions of philosophy are included in the 50-theme outline, this book can also be read as an engaging introduction to philosophy. For each of the philosophical topics in Lord, Kreeft presents tools by which they can be understood. Illustrated.

### **J. R. R. Tolkien's Sanctifying Myth** - Bradley J. Birzer

2014-05-13

Since the appearance of The Lord of the Rings in 1954, J. R. R. Tolkien's works have always sold briskly, appealing to a

wide and diverse audience of intellectuals, religious believers, fantasy enthusiasts, and science fiction aficionados. Now, Peter Jackson's film version of Tolkien's trilogy—with its accompanying Rings-related paraphernalia and publicity—is playing a unique role in the dissemination of Tolkien's imaginative creation to the masses. Yet, for most readers and viewers, the underlying meaning of Middle-earth has remained obscure. Bradley Birzer has remedied that with this fresh study. In *J. R. R. Tolkien's Sanctifying Myth: Understanding Middle-earth*, Birzer explains the surprisingly specific religious symbolism that permeates Tolkien's Middle-earth legendarium. He also explores the social and political views that motivated the Oxford don, ultimately situating Tolkien within the Christian humanist tradition represented by Thomas More and T. S. Eliot, Dante and C. S. Lewis. Birzer argues that through the genre of myth Tolkien created a world that is

essentially truer than the one we think we see around us every day, a world that transcends the colorless disenchantment of our postmodern age. "A small knowledge of history," Tolkien once wrote, "depresses one with the sense of the everlasting weight of human iniquity." As Birzer demonstrates, Tolkien's recognition of evil became mythologically manifest in the guise of Ringwraiths, Orcs, Sauron, and other dark beings. But Tolkien was ultimately optimistic: even weak, bumbling hobbits and humans, as long as they cling to the Good, can finally prevail. Bradley Birzer has performed a great service in elucidating Tolkien's powerful moral vision.

[Tolkien's Theology of Beauty](#) -

Lisa Coutras 2016-08-03

In this book, Lisa Coutras explores the structure and complexity of J.R.R. Tolkien's narrative theology, synthesizing his Christian worldview with his creative imagination. She illustrates

how, within the framework of a theological aesthetics, transcendental beauty is the unifying principle that integrates all aspects of Tolkien's writing, from pagan despair to Christian joy. J.R.R. Tolkien's Christianity is often held in an unsteady tension with the pagan despair of his mythic world. Some critics portray these as incompatible, while Christian analysis tends to oversimplify the presence of religious symbolism. This polarity of opinion testifies to the need for a unifying interpretive lens. The fact that Tolkien saw his own writing as "religious" and "Catholic," yet was preoccupied with pagan mythology, nature, language, and evil, suggests that these areas were wholly integrated with his Christian worldview. Tolkien's *Theology of Beauty* examines six structural elements, demonstrating that the author's Christianity is deeply embedded in the narrative framework of his creative imagination.

*Bilbo's Journey* - Joseph Pearce  
2012-10-31

Discover the Christian meaning in *The Hobbit*. In *Bilbo's Journey* go beyond the dragons, dwarves, and elves, and discover the surprisingly deep meaning of J.R.R.

Tolkien's classic novel *The Hobbit*. Bilbo's quest to find and slay the dragon Smaug is a riveting tale of daring and heroism, but as renowned Tolkien scholar Joseph Pearce shows, it is not simply Bilbo's journey, it is our journey too. It is the Christian journey of self-sacrifice out of love for others, and abandonment to providence and grace. In *Bilbo's Journey: Discovering the Hidden Meaning of The Hobbit* you will relive the excitement of Tolkien's classic tale, while discovering the profound Christian meaning that makes *The Hobbit* a truly timeless adventure. The audiobook edition of *Bilbo's Journey* is read by Kevin O'Brien.

*The Platonic Tradition* - Peter Kreeft  
2018-06-15

The Platonic tradition in Western philosophy is not just one of many equally central

traditions. It is so much THE central one that the very existence and survival of Western civilization depends on it. It is like the Confucian tradition in Chinese culture, or the monotheistic tradition in religion, or the human rights tradition in politics. In the first of his eight lectures, Peter Kreeft defines Platonism and its "Big Idea," the idea of a transcendent reality that the history of philosophy has labeled "Platonic Ideas" or Platonic Forms. In the second lecture, he briefly explores Plato's two basic predecessors or sources, myth and Socrates; and then looks at 12 applications of the Forms in Plato's own dialogues. The third lecture covers the three most important modifications or additions to Plato himself in the Platonic tradition: Aristotle, Plotinus, and Augustine, each of whom gave the Forms a new metaphysical address. The fourth lecture explores six Christian Platonists, three in the New Testament and three philosophers, Justin Martyr, Bonaventure, and Aquinas. The

next three lectures explore the consequences of the modern abandoning of Platonism, beginning with William of Ockham's Nominalism, as the source of nearly all modern philosophical errors, and its results in the Empiricism of Locke and Hume, the so-called Copernican Revolution in philosophy in Kant, the so-called "analytic philosophy," which still dominates English and American philosophy departments. In the sixth essays, Kreeft looks at 13 influential kinds of positivism or reductionism in modern thought: in method, history, metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, sociology, politics, logics, linguistics, sex, psychology, and theology, exemplified by Descartes, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Marx, Kant, Comte, Rousseau, Rawls, Ayer, Derrida, Freud, Skimmer, Nietzsche, and Sartre. Lecture 7 looks at the results of abandoning the Platonic tradition in ethics, the values vacuum, or nihilism, in Ecclesiastes, Pascal, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche,

Heidegger, Sartre, Dostoyevsky, Tolstoi, Marcel, and Buber. In the last lecture, Kreeft looks at some experiential evidence for Platonism, doors out of the cave that are still open, signals of transcendence.

**Doors in the Walls of the World** - Peter Kreeft

2018-08-22

"There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."— Hamlet After William Shakespeare's Horatio sees the ghost of Hamlet's father, and scarcely believes his own eyes, Hamlet tells him that there is more to reality than he can know or imagine, including ghosts. Hamlet's statement suggests that the walls of the material world, which we perceive with our

senses and analyze with our intellects, have doors that open into the More beyond them. Philosopher Peter Kreeft explains in this book that the More includes "The Absolute Good, Platonic Forms, God, gods, angels, spirits, ghosts, souls, Brahman, Rta (the Hindu ontological basis for cosmological karma), Nirvana, Tao, 'the will of Heaven', The Meaning of It All, Something that deserves a capital letter." With razor-sharp reasoning and irrepressible joy, Kreeft helps us to find the doors in the walls of the world. Drawing on history, physical science, psychology, religion, philosophy, literature, and art, he invites us to welcome what lies on the other side so that we can begin living the life of Heaven in the here and now.