



Love of Self and Love of God in Thirteenth-century Ethics (Paperback)

By Jr. Thomas M. Osborne

University of Notre Dame Press, United States, 2005. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. In this book, Thomas M. Osborne, Jr., covers an important but often neglected aspect of medieval ethics, namely, the controversy over whether or not it is possible to love God more than oneself through natural powers alone. In debating this topic, thirteenth-century philosophers and theologians introduced a high level of sophistication to the study of how one's own good is achieved through virtuous action. The central issue for medieval scholars was how to adapt Aristotle's philosophical insights to a Christian framework. For Christians, loving God above all else was their central ethical duty. Most ancient and medieval Christians were also committed to eudaimonism, or the view that one's good is always maximized through virtuous action. The tension between these two aspects of Christian ethics reached its highest point in philosophical discussions about whether God can be naturally loved more than oneself. Osborne provides a history of these debates based on a close analysis of primary texts, clarifies the concepts that are most important for understanding eudaimonism, and argues that the central difference between the ethical theories of such great thinkers...



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