



Beyond Fate

By MARGARET VISSER

Pub Group West June 2005, 2005. Paper Back. Condition: New. Margaret Visser borrows the ancient metaphor of the line--not a line of poetry, but a physical, figurative line drawn on a piece of paper--to frame her discussion of fatalism. The line spatializes time, encourages us to see events as inevitable and fated, and in doing so, expresses time in terms of space. In J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings saga, a line is turned upon itself to make a ring which curses whoever owns it. The One Ring is associated with fate as an imprisonment: chains that can only be broken by undertaking a perilous journey to destroy it, thereby releasing the world from the power of the Ring of Doom. Visser wishes to likewise warn us and help us identify how a similar fatalism expresses itself in our daily lives, threatening our ability to choose by snaring us in dangerous metaphors such as "Image is everything" and luring us with the notion that a person's worth is only measurable by what he or she is in the eyes of other people. By opposing the fatalistic Greek system of honor and shame with the Christian system of guilt and forgiveness,...



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