



The Passions of the Soul and Other Late Philosophical Writings (Oxford World's Classics)

Rene Descartes

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'Those most capable of being moved by passion are those capable of tasting the most sweetness in this life.'

Descartes is most often thought of as introducing a total separation of mind and body. But he also acknowledged the intimate union between them, and in his later writings he concentrated on understanding this aspect of human nature. *The Passions of the Soul* is his greatest contribution to this debate. It contains a profound discussion of the workings of the emotions and of their place in human life - a subject that increasingly engages the interest of philosophers and intellectual and cultural historians. It also sets out a view of ethics that has been seen as a radical reorientation of moral philosophy.

This volume also includes both sides of the correspondence with Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia, one of Descartes's keenest disciples and shrewdest critics, which played a crucial role in the genesis of *The Passions*, as well as the first part of *The Principles of Philosophy*, which sets out the key positions of Descartes's philosophical system.

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