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Passion s Triumph Over Reason: A History of the Moral Imagination from Spenser to Rochester (Hardback)

By Christopher Tilmouth

Oxford University Press, United Kingdom, 2007. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 240 x 160 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Passion s Triumph over Reason presents a comprehensive survey of ideas of emotion, appetite, and self-control in English literature and moral thought of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In a narrative which draws on tragedy, epic poetry, and moral philosophy, Christopher Tilmouth explores how Renaissance writers transformed their understanding of the passions, re-evaluating emotion so as to make it an important constituent of ethical life rather than the enemy within which allegory had traditionally cast it as being. This interdisciplinary study departs from current emphases in intellectual history, arguing that literature should be explored alongside the moral rather than political thought of its time. The book also develops a new approach to understanding the relationship between literature and philosophy. Consciously or not, moral thinkers tend to ground their philosophising in certain images of human nature. Their work is premised on imagined models of the mind and presumed estimates of man s moral potential. In other words, the thinking of philosophical authors (as much as that of literary ones) is shaped by the pre-rational assumptions of the...



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