CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 8
This Book’s Direction

CHAPTER ONE
EVIL AND EVOLUTION 16
DARWIN AND THE BRUTALITIES OF NATURE

- Natural History without Religion
- The Voyage and the Emerging Conviction of Natural Selection
- Nature’s Cruelty: Philosophical and Religious Implications
- Darwin’s Struggle with Theodicy
- Does Evolution Necessitate Atheism?
- Evolution as Religion: Richard Dawkins and Alister McGrath
- Evolution and the God of Classical Metaphysics
- Providence and Purpose after Darwin
- Metaphysical Impatience and Emerging Purpose
- Summary

CHAPTER TWO
EVIL, ETHICS, AND EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY 58

- Evolutionary Psychology, Sociobiology, and Darwinian Anthropology
- Darwin and Ethics
- From Darwin to Evolutionary Psychology
- The Controversial Issue of Altruism
- Aggression and Reproductive Competition
- Evolutionary Psychology and Religion
- Determinism and Transcendence: The Central Problem
- Original Sin and Evolutionary Psychology
- Summary

CHAPTER THREE
EVIL AND THE PSYCHOANALYTIC TRADITION 100

- Freud’s Gradual Turn to the Death Instinct
- Freud, Evil, and Religion
Tillich, Niebuhr, and Freud
Erich Fromm and Human Destructiveness
“Life Lovers” and “Death Lovers”
Fromm’s Syndrome of Decay
Fromm and Tillich on Estrangement and Healing
Ernest Becker: Evil and the Denial of Death
Fear of Death and Evil
Does Becker Exaggerate Our Narcissism?
Summary

CHAPTER FOUR
HUMAN POTENTIAL AND HUMAN DESTRUCTIVENESS

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF HATE

Threat, Anxiety, and Reactive Thinking
The Role of Egocentricity
Reactive Offenders and Psychopaths
Mental Distortion and Enemy Making
The Other Side of Hate
Hate and the Shadow
Jesus, Paul, and the Shadow
The Jekyll and Hyde Story
Varieties and Transformations of Hate
Reasons for Hate
The First Experience of Hate
Hatred, Absolutes, and the “Evil Imagination”
Purifying Our Hatred
Evaluating These Three Theories of Hate
Summary

CHAPTER FIVE
ORDINARY PEOPLE AND MALEVOLENT CIRCUMSTANCES

THE SOCIAL CONTEXT OF EVIL

Destructive Obedience
How Much Do Social-Psychology Experiments Tell Us about Evil?
The Breakdown of Self-Regulation
Social Critiques of Excessive Individualism
Summary

CHAPTER SIX
INDIVIDUAL AND SYSTEMIC EVIL 212
SHOULD ONE BE PRIVILEGED OVER THE OTHER?
Sin Reaffirmed: Langdon Gilkey and Shantung Compound
Niebuhr, Anxiety, and Sin
Pride and Self-obsession
From the Anxious Individual to the Corrupt System
Original Violence: Marjorie Suchocki’s Objection to Niebuhr
The Shift from the Individual to the Social in Pastoral Care
A Niebuhrian Response to Feminist and Liberation Charges
Summary

CHAPTER SEVEN
CONCLUDING THOUGHTS 250
Twelve Major Convictions
An Open-Ended Issue

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS 265

NOTES 266

INDEX 281