

'Love and Transcendence', by Martin Warner, in *Moral Powers, Fragile Beliefs: Essays in Moral and Religious Philosophy*, Carlisle, Joseph (ed); Carter, James (ed); Whistler, Daniel (ed), London, Continuum International Publishing Group, 2011, pp. 157-183

*Abstract*

A conception of love widely valued in our culture seems to be unintelligible unless we have a conception of the human person as in some way transcending empirical properties. Unifying its different forms, from before Dante to Raimond Gaita, is the presupposition that people are to be loved for their own sakes rather than their qualities. Empirically reductive accounts of the human person, if accepted, would undercut the whole tradition. Aesthetic judgement may provide a model for helping us judge whether discarding the transcendent reference apparently implicit in certain ethically significant concepts is to be counted gain or loss.