



BIOLOGY,
ETHICS,

A N D T H E

ORIGINS
of
LIFE

HOLMES ROLSTON, III

BIOLOGY, *ETHICS,*

AND THE

ORIGINS *of* LIFE

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Here is a unique anthology by eminent scientists and philosophers of science, including a Nobel laureate, a Templeton prize winner, the current president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and members of the National Academy of Sciences. Thomas Cech, Dorion Sagan and Lynn Margulis, Niles Eldredge, Michael Ruse, Francisco Ayala, Elliot Sober, Langdon Gilkey, and Charles Birch ask about the nature and origins of life, of ethics, and the relations between biology, ethics, and human values. This

collection, resulting from a conference at Colorado State University, has been edited for undergraduate students in philosophy courses in science, society, and human values; in human evolution/ecology; and in interdisciplinary studies.

Holmes Rolston, III, is University Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Colorado State University. He is the author of *Science and Religion: A Critical Survey* (1987), *Philosophy Gone Wild* (1986), *Environmental Ethics: Duties to and Values in the Natural World* (1988), and *Conserving Natural Value* (1994).

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Critical Notice: **Biology, Ethics, and the Origins of Life**

Harmon R. Holcomb, III (Philosophy, University of Kentucky) says of **Biology, Ethics, and the Origins of Life**: "A delight to teach, this anthology conveys our best efforts to come to grips with what biology is telling us about human nature: human beings are an evolved social species having mind, culture, and morality. In striving to reconcile our evolutionary past with the challenges of living an ethical life today, this book captures the interests of all students, especially biology students. Rolston's introductions make the book easy to teach and the uniformly readable, informative articles never fail to inspire good discussions. No other short book succeeds so well in showing how scientists, philosophers, and theologians can learn from each other and work together to keep our overall vision of human life on earth honest." In review note, published by Jones and Bartlett.

Clifford Matthews (Chemistry, University of Illinois at Chicago) says that **Biology, Ethics, and the Origins of Life** is an "exceptionally stimulating collection of essays." "Holmes Rolston ... has done a superb job in planning and editing this volume, not only contributing a thoughtful introduction to the symposium as a whole but also supplying separate introductions for each chapter, a final provocative overview by way of an epilogue, and a helpful glossary and index. This slim volume on biology and origins is not to be missed by anyone at all interested in religion and science and life." Review in **Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science** 31(1996):530-535.

John G. Quilter (Philosophy, Australian Catholic University, New South Wales) cites **Biology, Ethics, and the Origins of Life** for its "awareness of the complexities of the issues and the current state of the relevant literature in the philosophy of science." In "A Questionable View of the Place of Science in the Foundations of the Law of Life and Death," **Death Studies** 22(1998):393-401, citation on p. 399, p. 401.