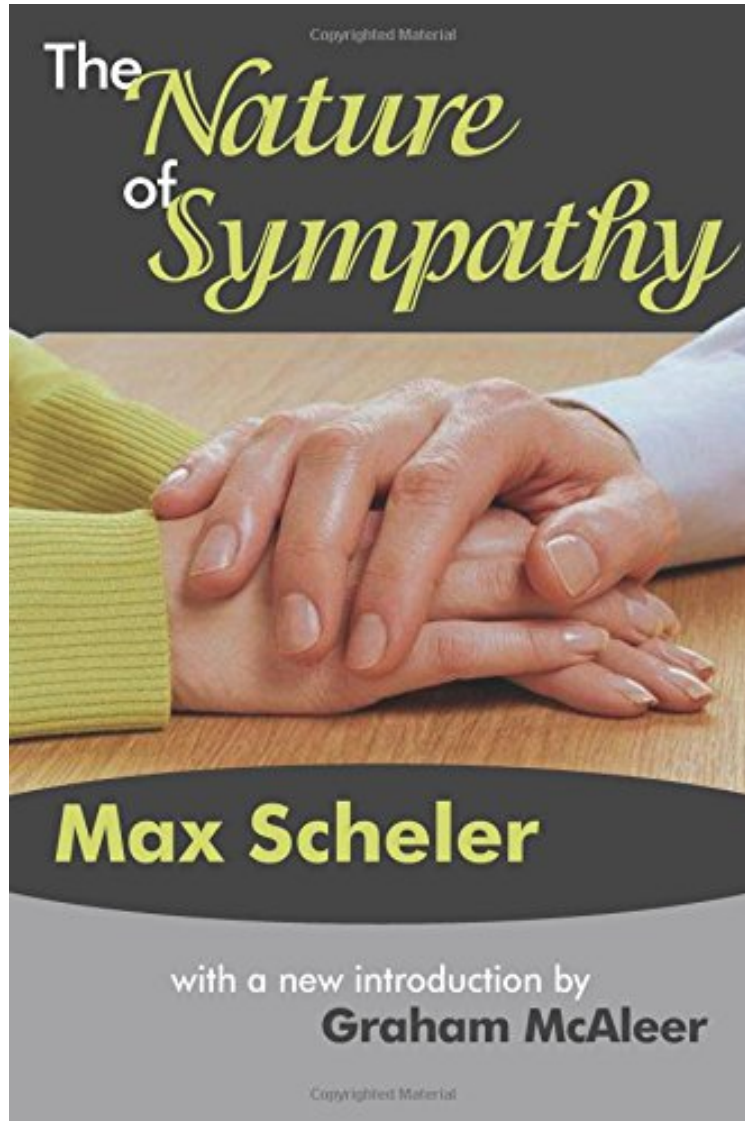


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## The Nature of Sympathy (Library of Conservative Thought)

*Max Scheler*

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**Max Scheler : The Nature of Sympathy (Library of Conservative Thought)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Nature of Sympathy (Library of Conservative Thought):

18 of 18 people found the following review helpful. The best study of sympathyBy Vinay VarmaMax Scheler is a now almost forgotten early phenomenologist. He made very objective studies of values, sympathy, sociology of knowledge and sociology of culture. This is one of his masterpieces in which he tries to phenomenological differentiate and explain the meaning of 'sympathy'.The book differentiates the concept of sympathy from related concepts like fellow-

feeling, commiseration etc. He argues how sympathy is not the same as these concepts and why sympathy is not a form of enlightened self-interest either. Particularly interesting are his arguments against Adam Smith's theory of moral sentiments in which fear motivates sympathy and Freud's concept of guilt as source of such feelings. He also shows how Buddha's concept of universal misery blocks compassion by accepting misery matter-of-factly and expecting everyone to accept and live their misery. The book concludes that sympathy is made possible by empathy but is an irreducible feeling. 0 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Two Stars By joan bennett the book was too technical for me which made it a hard read. i am going give it away

The Nature of Sympathy explores, at different levels, the social emotions of fellow-feeling, the sense of identity, love and hatred, and traces their relationship to one another and to the values with which they are associated. Scheler criticizes other writers, from Adam Smith to Freud, who have argued that the sympathetic emotions derive from self-interested feelings or instincts. He reviews the evaluations of love and sympathy current in different historical periods and in different social and religious environments, and concludes by outlining a theory of fellow-feeling as the primary source of our knowledge of one another. A prolific writer and a stimulating thinker, Max Scheler ranks second only to Husserl as a leading member of the German phenomenological school. Scheler's work lies mostly in the fields of ethics, politics, sociology, and religion. He looked to the emotions, believing them capable, in their own quality, of revealing the nature of the objects, and more especially the values, to which they are in principle directed.

"Scheler's book is in many ways important and great. The questions raised and the method followed are important: modern British thought with its crude use and abuse of the "emotive theory" could do well with a systematic study of the emotions which might show them up as complex intentional structures, and which might rely as much on the phenomenological insights of a Scheler, as on the behaviouristic flair of Gilbert Ryle." J.N. Findlay, *Mind* Language Notes Text: English, German (translation) About the Author Max Scheler (1874-1928) was a professor of philosophy and sociology at the University of Cologne and was best known for his work in phenomenology, ethics, and philosophical anthropology. Werner Stark (1909-1985) was a sociologist and economic historian. Among his other books are *The Sociology of Knowledge*; *The History of Economics in Its Relation to Social Development*; *Montesquieu: Pioneer of the Sociology of Knowledge*; and *The Fundamental Forms of Social Thought, and The Social Bond*. Graham McAleer is professor of philosophy at Loyola University in Maryland. He wrote introductions to the Transaction editions of Aurel Kolnai's *Ethics, Value and Reality* and Max Scheler's *The Nature of Sympathy* and *On the Eternal in Man*. He is the author of *Ecstatic Morality* and *Sexual Politics*.