

forgiveness

Its Powers and Corruptions

Brooklyn College Department of Philosophy

Sprague & Taylor Lecture

by

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Forgiveness is powerful. Powers internal to the mechanisms of forgiveness explain how two apparently different kinds of forgiveness—forgiveness earned through apology and forgiveness given as a gift—are of the same moral genus. The powers of forgiveness also explain how acts of forgiveness can be acts of social construction, both in relation to the wrongdoer and reflexively in relation to the forgiver herself. Once these constructive mechanisms are clearly in view, we are in a position to understand how the powers of forgiveness are intrinsically susceptible to certain familiar corruptions.

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Brooklyn College Library, Tanger Auditorium