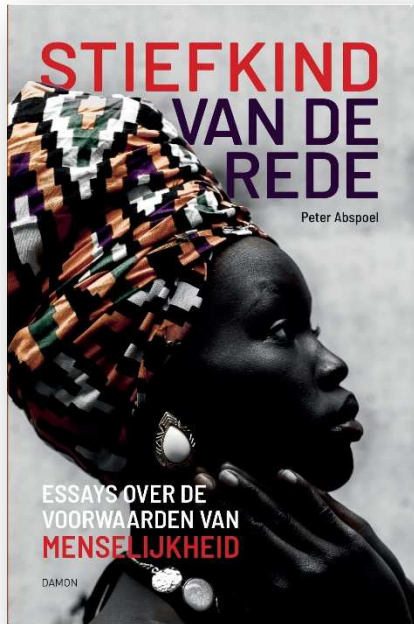


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Reason's Stepchild: Essays on the Conditions of Being Human



What do we need in order to feel that our life matters? Peter Abspoel shows how easily what we really need may disappear behind what we think we need. We like to believe that we can secure everything life has to offer by relying on the right view.

By helping us to discern the blind spots in Western ways of thinking about the world and man, this book opens up a whole new area for critical (self)reflection. Westerners have since long wanted to believe they were *completely different* from other peoples, who, they thought, were limited by a respect for tradition. The author recognizes that people may place too much trust in tradition (especially their 'own tradition'). But he shows that anti-traditionalistic prejudices are no less blinding.

Now, the future is claimed by visionaries who see not only tradition as an encumbrance, but also human nature. Can we still think of good reasons for not giving in to them? Can we find a ground, somewhere, for a common humanity that *imposes demands*?

This is not a book for people who are afraid to think. But anyone who thinks along with the author, will probably not pretend any time soon again to be able to explain everything.

Peter Abspoel has written an impressive book again. Impressive, because the author – even where you don't agree with him – challenges you with his great erudition and thinking power.
– Paul van Tongeren, Dutch Thinker Laureate

Stiefkind van de rede, Essays over de voorwaarden van menselijkheid by Peter Abspoel

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