



The Givenness of Things: Essays

Marilynne Robinson

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WITH A TWO-PART INTERVIEW BETWEEN MARILYNNE ROBINSON AND PRESIDENT OBAMA THAT FIRST APPEARED IN THE *NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS*

The incomparable Marilynne Robinson has delivered an impassioned critique of contemporary society?our addiction to technology, our materialism?while arguing that reverence must be given to who we are and what we are: creatures of singular interest and value, despite our errors and depredations.

Robinson has plumbed the depths of the human spirit both in her novels, including the National Book Critics Circle Award-winning *Lila* and the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Gilead*, and in her new essay collection she trains her incisive mind on our modern predicament and the mysteries of faith. These seventeen essays examine the ideas that have inspired and provoked one of our finest writers throughout her life. Whether she is investigating how the work of the great thinkers of the past?Calvin, Locke, Bonhoeffer, and Shakespeare?can infuse our lives, or drawing attention to the rise of the self-declared elite in American religious and political life, Robinson's peerless prose and boundless humanity are on display.

Exquisite and bold, *The Givenness of Things* is a necessary call for us to study our cultural heritage in search of both wisdom and guidance and to offer grace to one another.

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