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Lagerspetz's "Trust, ethics, and human reason" (Book Review)

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Lagerspetz came into the philosophical discipline of trust near its origin in the last quarter of the twentieth century, and has spent more than twenty years researching and interacting with the philosophical meaning of trust. This scholarly book is a result of that work. Lagerspetz’s writing does suppose a modicum of familiarity with philosophy, both terms and schools of thought, but it is not much beyond a collegiate level introduction to a philosophy class. If one has minimal familiarity with philosophy, this work should be an engaging and fruitful read. Lagerspetz’s work provides value for many realms of thought and action, including management and leadership, economics, history, psychology, and every day interpersonal relationships.

Lagerspetz does well introducing the idea of trust, or a component of it, in the chapters. After defining the key terms and issues to be discussed, Lagerspetz shows both the broader historical philosophical thought on the issue and the discipline of trust’s views as demonstrated in the current literature. Lagerspetz then synthesizes the ideas of each chapter while demonstrating the purpose of this work, which is that trust is a foundational part of human reason, not something derived from it. This work is recommended for upper level philosophy class, but applicable to a wide range of human endeavors and interactions.

**Reviewer**

Rory Patterson, Liberty University


*A Way to God* is a book of spiritual theology. What makes it somewhat different from other theology books is that it does not deal so much with doctrinal pronouncements, as with the personal experience of God and ways to approach a relationship with God. It is not a devotional book, but a scholarly study. Matthew Fox writes in a conversational and understandable style. What results is a theology book that can readily be understood by non-theologians on a topic that is central to the heart of thoughtful religious people of all faiths.

Fox begins this book by explaining his relationship with Thomas Merton. About 18 months before Merton’s death, young Fox wrote to Merton asking for guidance about a theology school where Fox could study spirituality. Merton responded with