



# **The Gift of Death, Second Edition & Literature in Secret (Religion and Postmodernism)**

*Jacques Derrida*

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# The Gift of Death, Second Edition & Literature in Secret (Religion and Postmodernism)

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*The Gift of Death*, Jacques Derrida's most sustained consideration of religion, explores questions first introduced in his book *Given Time* about the limits of the rational and responsible that one reaches in granting or accepting death, whether by sacrifice, murder, execution, or suicide. Derrida analyzes Czech philosopher Jan Patočka's *Heretical Essays in the Philosophy of History* and develops and compares his ideas to the works of Heidegger, Lévinas, and Kierkegaard. One of Derrida's major works, *The Gift of Death* resonates with much of his earlier writing, and this highly anticipated second edition is greatly enhanced by David Wills's updated translation.

This new edition also features the first-ever English translation of Derrida's *Literature in Secret*. In it, Derrida continues his discussion of the sacrifice of Isaac, which leads to bracing meditations on secrecy, forgiveness, literature, and democracy. He also offers a reading of Kafka's *Letter to His Father* and uses the story of the flood in Genesis as an embarkation point for a consideration of divine sovereignty.

"An important contribution to the critical study of ethics that commends itself to philosophers, social scientists, scholars of religion . . . [and those] made curious by the controversy that so often attends Derrida."—*Booklist*, on the first edition

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