



The Beast and the Sovereign, Volume I: Volume 1 (The Seminars of Jacques Derrida)

By Jacques Derrida

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When he died in 2004, Jacques Derrida left behind a vast legacy of unpublished material, much of it in the form of written lectures. With *The Beast and the Sovereign, Volume 1*, the University of Chicago Press inaugurates an ambitious series, edited by Geoffrey Bennington and Peggy Kamuf, translating these important works into English.

The Beast and the Sovereign, Volume 1 launches the series with Derrida's exploration of the persistent association of bestiality or animality with sovereignty. In this seminar from 2001–2002, Derrida continues his deconstruction of the traditional determinations of the human. The beast and the sovereign are connected, he contends, because neither animals nor kings are subject to the law—the sovereign stands above it, while the beast falls outside the law from below. He then traces this association through an astonishing array of texts, including La Fontaine's fable "The Wolf and the Lamb," Hobbes's biblical sea monster in *Leviathan*, D. H. Lawrence's poem "Snake," Machiavelli's *Prince* with its elaborate comparison of princes and foxes, a historical account of Louis XIV attending an elephant autopsy, and Rousseau's evocation of werewolves in *The Social Contract*.

Deleuze, Lacan, and Agamben also come into critical play as Derrida focuses in on questions of force, right, justice, and philosophical interpretations of the limits between man and animal.

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Editorial Review

Review

“What this first volume . . . provides beyond its treatment of the fascinatingly intricate literary and philosophical motifs of bestiality and sovereignty is a vivid attestation to the experience of Derrida as a teacher—the quality of his attention, the tone and rhythm of his voice, his means of sparking his students’ capacities’ to read and think.”

(Times Literary Supplement)

“This superb translation of 13 previously unpublished lectures by Derrida is the first in a remarkable project. . . . What Derrida accomplishes in this, his final seminar, is remarkable because it goes to the very heart of his lifelong project of deconstructing the logocentric bias of Western thinking.”

(Choice)

About the Author

Jacques Derrida (1930–2004) was director of studies at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris, and professor of humanities at the University of California, Irvine. He is the author of many books published by the University of Chicago Press. **Geoffrey Bennington** is the Asa G. Candler Professor of Modern French Thought at Emory University and the author of numerous works, including *Interrupting Derrida*.

Users Review

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Benjamin Manno:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity here is look different you can read a book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a e-book. The book *The Beast and the Sovereign, Volume I: Volume 1 (The Seminars of Jacques Derrida)* it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book has high quality.

Ruth Santiago:

Exactly why? Because this *The Beast and the Sovereign, Volume I: Volume 1 (The Seminars of Jacques Derrida)* is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap it but latter it will

jolt you with the secret it inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who have write the book in such remarkable way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book include such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

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Karen Bright:

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