

FOREWORD

Sidney Axinn has written a profound and intense study of fundamental matters touching upon our humanity. He expounds and expands the Kantian question, "What may we hope?" The exploration is subtle and systematic; the results are an exciting exposition of the very meaning of hope.

Axinn opens the book with an extended exegesis of Kant's *Religion Within the Limits of Reason Alone*, a fascinating work that weaves together major themes of Kantian philosophy, but which has not received its full due. Axinn works out and works over every worthwhile distinction in that volume, connecting it when appropriate with the corpus of Kant's works. This full clarification of the Kantian classic gives Axinn the terms and considerations for pursuing hope to its last hiding places in the human heart. Sophisticated analytic techniques, including symbolic logic, are put to use on the conceptual matrix, the logical alternatives, the propositional structure of hope. Much turns upon the traditional Square of Opposition (redone as a Cube) and the recent distinction between *use* and *mention*.

Axinn arrives at an astonishing outcome in his Kantian journey: hope, which generally is thought to be a religious matter, becomes invested by the rational beings that we are in the transformation of world society into a Kingdom of Ends of individuals and a peaceful League of Nations. Here Axinn, along with Kant, ties together philosophy of history and international politics with ethics, human nature, and the powers of reason. This hopeful contribution to Kantian studies, and to human studies, is Axinnology at its best.

Robert Ginsberg
Executive Editor