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Death and the Afterlife

By Samuel Scheffler

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2016. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 198 x 132 mm. Language: N/A. Brand New Book. Suppose you knew that, though you yourself would live your life to its natural end, the earth and all its inhabitants would be destroyed thirty days after your death. To what extent would you remain committed to your current projects and plans? Would scientists still search for a cure for cancer? Would couples still want children? In *Death and the Afterlife*, philosopher Samuel Scheffler poses this thought experiment in order to show that the continued life of the human race after our deaths-the afterlife of the title-matters to us to an astonishing and previously neglected degree. Indeed, Scheffler shows that, in certain important respects, the future existence of people who are as yet unborn matters more to us than our own continued existence and the continued existence of those we love. Without the expectation that humanity has a future, many of the things that now matter to us would cease to do so. By contrast, the prospect of our own deaths does little to undermine our confidence in the value of our activities. Despite the terror we may feel when...



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