

Edited by Predrag Cicovacki

# The Human Soul

*Essays in Honor of Nalin Ranasinghe*

SERIES IN PHILOSOPHY

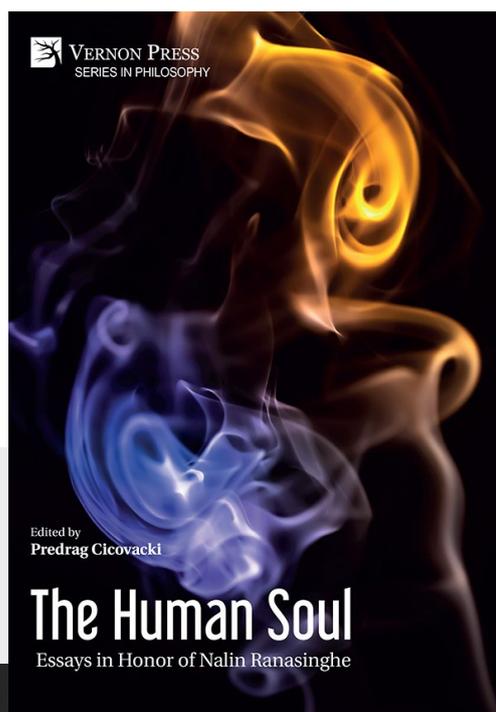
## About the editor

**Predrag Cicovacki** has taught philosophy at the College of the Holy Cross (Worcester, Massachusetts, USA) since 1991, where he also served as Director of Peace and Conflict Studies and as Editor-in-Chief of 'Diotima: A Philosophical Review'. Cicovacki is the author of twelve books and the editor of eight. In 2012-13, Cicovacki was a Senior Nehru-Fulbright fellow in India. Over one hundred and fifteen of Cicovacki's articles and essays are published in, or translated into, English, Serbian, Russian, German, Spanish, Slovenian, Chinese, and Japanese.

## Summary

This collection of essays is dedicated to a recently deceased philosopher and humanist, Nalin Ranasinghe. His central philosophical and humanistic preoccupation was with the human soul. Not surprisingly, his greatest inspiration was Socrates' credo "Care for your soul," and the title of his first book was 'The Soul of Socrates'. In this and his later writings, Ranasinghe expressed his growing concern over the idea that the human soul has been hijacked due to the way our civilization has developed: the highest and noblest aspirations of our civilization have been replaced by our obsession with money, pleasure, and power. We now live in a time where we do not know who we are, nor who the people around us are. Despite all of the technical gadgets connecting us virtually, this is the age of disconnect and loneliness, as well as of the degradations of humanity. Ranasinghe insisted that the two keys for recovery are the self-knowledge of the soul and a continuous dialogue with others. We need to relearn how to relate to ourselves and others as unique individuals, not as objects for the satisfaction of our needs.

Following his ideas, the twenty essays presented here are divided into two parts: "the soul in reflection" and "the soul in dialogue." The contributors come from various countries around the globe and work in different disciplines, and their chapters aim to revive our interest in the soul and the obscured core of our humanity. This book will appeal to undergraduate and graduate students of philosophy; however, the essays are written in a non-technical language, also making them accessible to the general audience.



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