

Rob Riemen, *Nobility of Spirit: A Forgotten Ideal*

Voorwoord George Steiner
Yale University Press — gebonden — 160 bladzijden

Vanaf begin juni te koop bij het Nexus Instituut (€ 22,50 excl. verzendkosten, zie *Bestelkaart*).

PRESS RELEASE

In the pages of this slim, powerful book Rob Riemen, founder of the influential Nexus Institute in the Netherlands, argues that ‘nobility of spirit’ is the quintessence of a civilized world, it is as Thomas Mann believed, the sole corrective for human history. Without nobility of spirit, culture vanishes. Yet in the early twenty-first century, a time when human dignity and freedom are imperiled, the concept of nobility of spirit is seldom considered.

Riemen insists that if we hope to move beyond the ‘war on terror’ and create a life-affirming culture, we must reckon with timeless but neglected questions: What is a good society? Why art? Why culture? What is the responsibility of intellectuals? Why anti-Americanism? Why the fundamentalists’ cult of death?

‘The forces now aligned against humanistic values are manifold,’ observes George Steiner in his foreword. In this imaginative and provocative volume, Riemen addresses these forces and speaks to every reader who believes in the power of classical ideas to restore Western civilization’s highest values.

‘The author’s vast cultural knowledge, his firm commitment to liberal ideals and the agility of his pen make these essays an invaluable guide to orient us amid the great political and cultural problems, and the ideological confusions, of the world in which we live.’ — *Mario Vargas Llosa*

‘Rob Riemen’s essays spring from a deep and firm conviction: they are like water from artesian wells and this is, I think, the main reason why they are so important and refreshing.’ — *Adam Zagajewski*

‘Written with such elegance, erudition and skill, a singular reflection of fundamental problems, virtues and vices, of our time.’ — *Ivan Klíma*

‘Rob Riemen has written a rare and much needed book, one which we appreciate not because we necessarily agree with its views, but for its commitment to ideas and its passion for imagination. It is a timely reminder of how imaginative knowledge can become a way of questioning, connecting to and changing the world as well as ourselves.’ — *Azar Nafisi*
