ROBERT EMMET MEAGHER



ROBERT EMMET MEAGHER is currently Professor of Humanities in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies at Hampshire College, Amherst, Massachusetts, the "5th" of the Five Colleges, the oldest such educational consortium in the country, comprised of Amherst College, Smith College, Mount Holyoke College, the University of Massachusetts, and Hampshire College, founded in 1970 by its four predecessors to be an interdisciplinary, experimental "lab," as it were, for innovation and change in higher education.

With degrees in philosophy and theology from the University of Notre Dame and the University of Chicago, Meagher began his teaching career in 1969 at Indiana University and moved from there to Notre Dame's School of Theology. In 1972, he became one of the early founding faculty of Hampshire College with the assignment of building its program in religious studies. While at Hampshire, he has broadly expanded his early philosophical and theological interests to teach not only philosophy of religion but also political philosophy and the classics, with an increasingly avid engagement in comparative epic and drama. This led to his internationally recognized work in the translation and study of Greek tragedy. His numerous translations of the dramas of Euripides and Aeschylus, nearly all of which were commissioned by the famed Greek actress Irene Papas, in collaboration with the late luminary director Michael Cacoyannis, have been produced across the United States, Europe and most recently in India.

In addition to translating Greek drama, Meagher has himself directed numerous productions of Euripides and Aeschylus in such venues as the Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, the Samuel Beckett Centre in Dublin, and the Nandan Centre for the Performing Arts in Kolkota, West Bengal. The late Michael Joyce, of the National Theatre of Great Britain and Dublin's Beckett Centre, has labeled Meagher "the finest living translator of Greek drama."

Meagher has held a number of distinguished visiting professorships and chairs at such institutions as Trinity College Dublin (in Classics and Divinity Studies), Yale University (in Philosophy), the University of Missouri (in Theater and Philosophy), the University of Tennessee (in Humanities), and Willamette University (in Theater and History). He has also taught courses at Smith College (in Philosophy and Religion), Mount Holyoke College (in Religion), and the University of Massachusetts (in Classics).

Meagher began his writing career in 1968 with the publication of *Personalities and Powers* (Herder & Herder, 1968) and has since then published nearly twenty monographs and translations and a wide range of articles across each of the disciplines in which he has taught. The works that most closely bear on the book focused on here are: *An Introduction to Augustine* (NYU and Harper & Row) used as a text at both Harvard and Yale and described as an invaluable classic by Louis Dupré, who until his retirement in 1988 held the T. Lawrason Riggs Professorship in Christian Philosophy and Religion at Yale University; *Camus* (Harper & Row), highly praised by the late Germaine Breé, a close personal friend of Camus and arguably the most recognized critic of his work, and *Herakles Gone Mad* (Interlink), highly praised by renowned psychiatrist, classical scholar, and MacArthur Fellow Jonathan Shay, advisor to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and one-time occupant of the Omar Bradley Chair at the Army War College.

Also deeply relevant to the writing of *Killing from the Inside Out* is Meagher's committed work with veterans and veterans' organizations, particularly in New England but also across the United States. He has written and spoken widely concerning the invisible, psychological and spiritual wounds of war, working closely with the Veterans Education Project, founded nearly thirty years ago, training and supporting veterans of America's wars, from WWII to Iraq and Afghanistan, to speak in schools and civic venues to inform and discuss with the public the realities of military service and combat. He has also been a major organizer of veterans-related programs throughout Western Massachusetts and is the director of the NEH/MassHumanities-sponsored Literature and Medicine Program at the VA Medical Center in Northampton/Leeds. In 2010, Meagher was selected as a commissioner for the first National Truth Commission on Conscience in War convened at the Riverside Church in New York, and in the summer of 2011 he served in Belfast, Northern Ireland as a consultant to a three-person team of international peace and reconciliation workers commissioned by the EU to write a manual for the healing of war trauma and moral injury through storytelling.