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'Kevin Taylor's book offers a crucial supplement and corrective to Hans Urs von Balthasar's theological aesthetics. That such an immensely sympathetic imagination as Balthasar's should have neglected tragedy as both a moral category and a literary form proves costly. Taylor shows that this neglect makes the beauty of Christ triumph prematurely over the ugliness inherent in the world's tragedy. Having written so perceptively on a novelist such as Georges Bernanos, Balthasar might also have examined the fiction of Thomas Hardy. As Taylor demonstrates, Hardy's tragic vision also demands a Christian reckoning.'

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Kevin Taylor is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Pfeiffer University, USA. He is co-editor of a collection of essays, *Christian Theology and Tragedy: Theologians, Tragic Literature and Tragic Theory* (2011).

HANS URS VON BALTHASAR AND THE QUESTION OF TRAGEDY IN THE NOVELS OF THOMAS HARDY

KEVIN TAYLOR

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