

Luigino Bruni

**The Wound  
and the  
Blessing**

Economics  
Relationships  
and Happiness

Translation by  
N. Michael Brennen

Foreword by  
Charles M.A. Clark



New City Press  
Hyde Park, New York

# Contents

Foreword.....	ix
Translator's Introduction.....	xiv
Introduction .....	xx
1. The Angel and the Other .....	1
1. The Radical Ambivalence of Life in Community.....	1
2. The Tragic Community .....	5
3. The Mediation of the Absolute .....	7
4. The Discovery of "Thou": the Angel Becomes the Other .....	10
2. Modern Economic Science: a Science without Gratuitousness .....	14
1. Adam Smith's "Original Sin" .....	14
2. Economics without "Beneficence" .....	17
3. Reciprocity .....	19
3. Corporate Social and Civil Responsibility: <i>Immunitas</i> and <i>Communitas</i> Compared.....	25
1. Modern Economics, Markets and Corporations: A Single Immunizing Process .....	25
2. Market and Hierarchy .....	27
3. Coherence beyond the Contradiction.....	30
4. Another Idea about Community Responsibility .....	34
5. From the Market to the Company, from the Company to the Market .....	38
6. Conclusion.....	42
4. Eros, Philia, and Agape .....	45
1. Economics and Gratuitousness .....	45
2. Human Love, One and Many .....	46
3. Eros, Philia, and the Common Good.....	51

4. The Common Good as Self-Deception .....	54
5. Beyond an “Erotic” Economics .....	56
6. Conclusion.....	62
5. Joyless Economy.....	63
1. A Premise .....	63
2. “Public Happiness” and the Civil Economy of Antonio Genovesi.....	64
3. Relationships and Well-being .....	69
4. Why Are We Less Happy than We Could Be?.....	70
5. The Paradox of Opulent Unhappiness .....	75
6. A Critical Appraisal of the Debate on Economics and Happiness.....	78
6. Relationships as Goods.....	83
1. Relationships: the Goods that Traditional Economics Does Not See .....	83
2. Relational Goods .....	85
3. Primary and Secondary Relational Goods .....	90
4. “Hell is Other People” .....	93
7. The Economic and Civil Significance of Charisms.....	99
1. Different Eyes .....	99
2. Charisms and Innovation.....	104
3. Charis, or “That Which Gives Joy” .....	107
Conclusion: Embraced by the Other.....	109
Bibliography .....	115