

To the Concept of a Benevolent God

who wills us all to ill-will no one

and

*To the Idea of an unprejudiced respect
for creative works of knowledge*

Calling Gracious Understanding

This book has more than its share of gaps. Unbeknownst to us, a table with misaligned columns, an exhibit misplaced, a figure mislabeled, a credit footnote missing, a typo survived, an unedited sentence, and so on. Substantively, press deadline compelled us to forego some content that needed **more time for development**. Some 5000+ authoring hours later, the book is still a work far from perfect, limited by time, resources, and, plainly, author capabilities (referring only to myself, BM). **Gracious readers**, choosing the book with a mind calm and curious, will find the work, with all its flaws, rewarding, **this we are told**.