

"This book is a vital resource for all those concerned about responsible human interactions with the environment beyond planet Earth in hopes of averting the next crisis. Daniel Capper provides an ethical analysis of interest to Buddhists and non-Buddhists alike. In a clear and engaging style, he offers insights drawn from a deep religious tradition and simultaneously informed by a modern scientific perspective. History is replete with examples of environmental issues ignored until a crisis was reached—we must not repeat this pattern in space!"

—ALAN R. JOHNSON, *Clemson University*

"Capper's text draws on contemporary liberal American Buddhism to challenge the artificial separation between Earth and space. His approach to the problem is deep and striking—deep, in the sense that it is rooted in a major tradition of religious thought, understood without dogmatism; striking, in its use of images that, once encountered, can suddenly seem both enlightening and obvious. When rocky worlds without greenery are compared to dry Zen gardens (*karesansui*) where there are no trees or flowers, I find myself asking, 'Why didn't I think of that?'"

—TONY MILLIGAN, *King's College London*

This seminal monograph provides the essential guidance that we need to act as responsible ecological citizens while we expand our reach beyond Earth. The emergence of numerous national space programs along with several potent commercial presences prompts our attention to urgent environmental issues like what to do with the large mass of debris that orbits Earth, potential best practices for mining our moon, how to appropriately search for microscopic life, or whether to alter the ecology of Mars to suit humans better. This book not only examines the science and morals behind these potential ecological pitfall scenarios beyond Earth but also provides groundbreaking policy responses founded on ethics. These effective solutions come from a critical reframing for scientific settings of the unique moral voices of diverse Buddhists from the American ethnographic field, who together delineate sophisticated and yet practical values for traveling through our solar system. Along the way, Buddhists fascinatingly supply robust environmental lessons for Earth as well. As much a work of astrobiology as it is one of religious studies, this book will appeal to anyone who is interested in space travel, our human environment in large scale, or spiritual ecology.

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