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Acknowledgments

This thesis is a philosophical work that has not been written by a philosopher. Though educated as a mathematician, I grew more and more passionate about philosophy over the years, yet never did I take a philosophy course. Sometimes I believed, as many of my fellow mathematicians did, that nothing is an academic work worth its salt if it is not formal and rigorous as a mathematical demonstration. Consequently, as I wrote down my first few drafts of a philosophical piece, I pretended to write down a demonstration. Just as many, though not all, of my fellow philosophers, I was under the wrong impression that philosophy ought to be an endeavor of writing down demonstrations. I owe Martin Stokhof the realization that this is not how things work in philosophy, let alone how they ought to. Martin taught me that there is a difference between a demonstration and an argument, and that there can be non-formal yet fully rigorous arguments. Needless to say, these lessons showed me the way to both a more humble and a more clearly structured manner of writing. Having finished my thesis, however, I feel that a long way still lies ahead before I can produce a truly satisfactory philosophical work.

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Edgar J. Andrade-Lotero