

# Outline

*On the Consolation of Philosophy* is laid out as follows:

- **Book I:** Boethius laments his imprisonment before he is visited by Philosophy, personified as a woman.
- **Book II:** Philosophy illustrates the capricious nature of Fate by discussing the "wheel of Fortune"; she further argues that true happiness lies in the pursuit of wisdom.
- **Book III:** Building on the ideas laid out in the previous book, Philosophy explains how wisdom has a divine source; she also demonstrates how many earthly goods (e.g., wealth and beauty) are fleeting at best.
- **Book IV:** Philosophy and Boethius discuss the nature of good and evil, with Philosophy offering several explanations concerned with [evil](#) events and why the wicked can never attain true happiness.
- **Book V:** Boethius asks Philosophy about the role [Chance](#) plays in the order of everything. Philosophy argues that Chance is guided by [Providence](#). Boethius then asks Philosophy about the compatibility of an omniscient God and [free will](#).

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