

An Apology

1. *Performative speech of Address*
Speaks to an act that cannot be undone, cannot go unnoticed without injury to current or future relationship, or violates the integrity of the wider network of social relationships both parties share.

2. *Actual barter of emotion, cognition, will*
One "owes, gives, offers, extends, receives, accepts, exchanges, records, keeps accounts, maintains inner ledgers."

3. *Time bound and time binding event.*
Alters meaning of past, changes position in the present, pledges difference in future.

4. *Relational symbolic act of reconnecting*
Within a complex interpersonal field, a multi-level moral order, a multicultural context, a historical setting.

5. *Process of restoration or reconstruction by finding a common reality in the social order, a shared place in the moral order. (An offender's claim to membership in a moral order has been rendered suspect or indefensible by the injustice and an apology is a means of regaining a place.)*

6. *Arduous act, painful process.*
An apology is an act of both self affirmation and self negation, of self healing and self punishment, of reducing self esteem while increasing self respect.

What is an Apology?

Does it differ from an-

Excuse?

Disclaimer?

Explanation?

Account?

Reframe?

Justification?

Exoneration?

Repudiation?

Undoing ritual?

Other?