JAT Special Issue on Jewish Analytic Theology

It is our pleasure to introduce this special issue, devoted to the topic of worship in Jewish analytic theology. Many of the papers published here were presented at one of two summer workshops we ran as part of the John Templeton Foundation sponsored project, "Worship: A Jewish Philosophical Investigation".

Not all of the papers in this issue are directly dedicated to an examination of the philosophy of worship from a specifically Jewish perspective; indeed, the issue includes an Anselmian analysis of worship-worthiness and an exploration of Christian thanksgiving. This is very much in tune with the project of which this special issue is a part. Our hope was to cultivate discussion that would start within a specific religious tradition - since worship itself is rarely (if ever) conducted outside of such a thick cultural and historical context - in the hope that this discussion would enrich our understanding across different religious traditions; and that an inter-faith element should be present from the beginning.

That being said, one key aim of the project was to encourage the growth of Jewish analytic theology. Accordingly, the majority of the papers in this issue are situated within the Jewish intellectual tradition, and cover such topics as Maimonidean theology, idolatry and the Bible, and Jewish law concerning intentional worship.

We'd like to thank our contributors for their excellent articles, and Joshua Seachris and the entire editorial team, for their tireless work in bringing this issue to fruition. We'd like to thank the John Templeton Foundation for their generous support, and note that the views expressed in this issue do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the foundation. It's our sincere prayer that this issue serves to advance Jewish analytic theology. Moreover, the philosophy of worship has been largely neglected by the analytic tradition, and we hope this special issue (and a less specifically Jewish, projected collection of essays) will begin to remedy that lacuna.

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