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## NOTES AND NEWS

### *I. Forthcoming Special Issues*

Topic: Theological Contributions to Theodicy

Date: October 1996

Advisory Editor: Marilyn McCord Adams

Deadline for submission: January 1, 1996

The problem of evil, which has occupied so dominant a place on standard syllabi in philosophy of religion, finds its theological counter-part in soteriology, the doctrine about how God remedies what ails creation. Increased attention to historical and contemporary theological treatments of human and Divine relations to evil, should enable Christian philosophers to reappropriate our traditions as well as stimulate fresh thinking on these difficult and central problems.

Contributions to this special issue should focus on one or no more than a few past or contemporary theologians, and analyze the bearing of their positions on the problem of evil. It is expected that most authors will be Christian, although materials from other (particularly Jewish or Islamic) traditions can be helpful. Authors may be taken, not only from the ranks of systematic and philosophical theologians, but also from the company of spiritual and devotional writers. Preference will be given to papers on theologians and positions not already receiving wide attention in Society-of-Christian-Philosophers circles.

Topic: Philosophy of Religion and Jewish Religious Thought

Date: October 1997

Advisory Editor: Eleonore Stump

Deadline for submission: January 1, 1997

There was a period when philosophy of religion was focused only on a narrow range of topics thought to be philosophically respectable, such as analysis of religious language. In recent years, however, philosophy of religion has broadened greatly, to include philosophical consideration of an array of issues in theology and biblical studies. As the focus of philosophy of religion has widened, philosophers of religion have explored various periods of Christian tradition, including certain aspects of medieval philosophical theology and Calvinist philosophy. What has not received much attention so far by contemporary philosophers of religion is the rich philosophical and theological tradition of Judaism. Yet even a theologian so unsympathetic to pluralism as Thomas Aquinas thought he had a great deal to learn from the Jewish tradition available in his period. This issue therefore will be devoted to philosophy of religion and Jewish religious thought. Comparisons of Jewish and Christian views are welcome, but not required. Historical study is encouraged as long as it contributes to consideration of philosophical issues.

Topic: Virtues and Virtue Theories from a Christian Perspective  
 Date: October 1998  
 Advisory Editor: Linda Zagzebski  
 Deadline for submission: January 1, 1998

Virtue theory has a long and important history in Christian philosophy and theories of this kind are lately attracting a lot of attention in Anglo-American ethics. This suggests that it may now be an appropriate time for Christian philosophers to make a serious examination of the virtues and virtue ethics. Papers for this issue of the journal could draw on the historical tradition of Christian virtue theory, or they could apply a Christian viewpoint to recent work on virtue ethics outside the Christian tradition. Papers which concentrate on particular virtues, especially those which are distinctively Christian, are also welcome. The virtues discussed need not be limited to moral virtues, but may include religious virtues, intellectual virtues, or other excellences pertinent to Christian faith or practice.

## II. *Calls for Papers*

### Theistic Philosophy in Hinduism and Buddhism

Date: October 1999  
 Advisory Editor: Paul J. Griffiths  
 Submission Deadline: January 1, 1999

In spite of the renaissance in philosophy of religion since the 1970s, relatively little attention has yet been paid by philosophers writing in English to the rich traditions of thought about God found in Hinduism and Buddhism. Christian philosophers should find these traditions of thought of considerable interest since they contain understandings of God, arguments about God's nature, and arguments for and against God's existence, that were elaborated quite independently of the sacred texts and philosophical traditions of the Abrahamic religions. The purpose of this issue is to explore contributions to philosophical discussion of God made by particular Hindu or Buddhist thinkers or schools. Papers from Christian philosophers assessing such contributions from a Christian viewpoint are welcome, as are papers from non-Christians, whether critical or supportive of the materials treated. In either case, the focus should be upon the philosophical issues raised by the materials treated.

### Society of Christian Philosophers — 1996 Eastern Regional Meeting

Date: April 12 - 14, 1996  
 Place: Salem College, Winston-Salem, NC  
 Submission Deadline: February 16, 1996

The 1996 Eastern Regional Meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers will be held at Salem College, located in the heart of the restored village

of Old Salem. There will be three plenary sessions. The opening address will be given by Dr. Louis Mackey (Department of Philosophy, The University of Texas at Austin) on Friday evening. In the second plenary session, Dr. Ulrike Wiethaus (Department of Humanities, Wake Forest University) will discuss interreligious aspects of feminist spirituality. The third plenary session, scheduled for Saturday evening, will consist of a panel discussion on the nature of mysticism from the perspectives of Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Hinduism. The participants are: Dr. Roger Corless (Department of Religion, Duke University), Dr. David Halperin (Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Dr. Ulrike Wiethaus (Department of Humanities, Wake Forest University), and Dr. Chandana Chakrabarti (Department of Religious Studies, Elon College).

In addition to these keynote addresses, the conference includes concurrent sessions of submitted papers. Submissions on any topic of interest to Christian philosophers are invited. Papers must be limited to 10-15 pages (reading time of 30 minutes), prepared for blind reviewing, submitted in triplicate, and accompanied by an abstract of no more than 100 words. Only complete manuscripts will be considered. Volunteers to chair sessions are also needed.

The **deadline** for submissions has been extended to **February 16, 1996**. Notification of acceptance will be mailed by **March 15, 1996**.

**Location:** All sessions and meals will be held on the campus of Salem College, 601 South Church Street, Winston-Salem, NC.

**Lodging:** Blocks of rooms are being held for participants at the Radisson Marquee Hotel. The rate for the conference is \$69. You must make your own reservations by calling the hotel directly (910-725-1234).

Papers and Abstracts should be sent to: Dr. Tasha Rushing, Department of Religion and Philosophy, Salem College, Winston-Salem, NC 27108-0578. Telephone: 910-721-2727.

### Conference on Religious Pluralism:

#### The Changing Face of North America

Date: October 11-12, 1996

Place: Aquinas College

Submission Deadline: May 15, 1996

The Interfaith dialogue Association, in cooperation with co-sponsors and participating organizations, announces our 6th annual conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

We invite you to propose a short paper, panel presentation, or workshop related to the above theme. Clerics, community leaders, students, educators, and the general public are all encouraged to submit proposals such as the following:

- What are the experiences of your (minority) religious tradition in North America?
- What impact does religious pluralism have on our families, education, towns, work places, or political system? What are the different approaches to pluralism?
- How is diversity in North America affecting our religious beliefs and experience?
- What conflicting religious ideologies, values or human service models have arisen because of religious diversity? Can we integrate them?
- Is the affirmation of common values – a “global ethic” – possible and desirable?
- How can we think about “interreligious community” despite religious diversity?

We are also inviting proposals that offer an introduction to your religious practice, combined with a group participation or performance experience such as music, prayer, dance, meditation or a ritual. The activity may come from a historic religious tradition or may be non-sectarian or multi-faith.

#### GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTATIONS:

*Panels:* 6-8 minutes each, followed by discussion;

*Papers:* 15 minutes (maximum), allotting time for dialogue;

*Workshops:* Approx. 1 hour; interacting with audience.

*Note:* IDA conference presenters are asked to register (at approx. \$25) and pay other expenses. (Some scholarships available.)

Submit 4 copies of your proposal to the address below, with:

- 1) Cover page with your name, affiliation, summer address, telephone/fax/E-mail, title, and a 25-30 word description;
- 2) A summary of your proposal in 200-300 words.

Send proposals to Joel Beversluis at the address below. The committee will notify all applicants by June 30 after reviewing the proposals and working to shape a balanced and diverse program aligned with the theme. We encourage your participation!

### III. *Conferences and Institutes*

#### Conference on Persons

Date: August 15-19, 1995

Place: Oriel College, Oxford

There will be a Conference on Persons at Oriel College, Oxford, England, from Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August to Saturday 19th August 1995. The aim of the conference is to provide a philosophical forum for scholars from all disciplinary backgrounds and religious traditions to enter into genuine dialogue about

1) what it means to be a person, 2) ways in which personal modes of being can provide clues to the nature of reality, 3) the ethical implications of taking personal categories seriously, and 4) the resources a personalist perspective offers for addressing contemporary issues and concerns. Themes will include philosophy of mind; philosophy of personal identity; persons in literature and film; persons and pedagogy; issues at the beginning of life and end of life; persons, suffering, and evil; European approaches to personalism. These are no more than indicators of the possible range of areas covered at the conference.

The 1995 Conference on Persons is the third in a series of biannual conferences organized by *The Personalist Forum*. Previous conferences held in Great Britain and the United States have brought together an international group of scholars who share a common commitment to exploring issues which confront persons in an age of increasing depersonalization. Papers accepted for the first conference were published in *The Personalist Forum*, the group's international journal printed by Mercer University Press, whilst papers accepted for the second conference appeared in a book entitled *Becoming Persons*, published by The Applied Theology Press based at Oxford. Publication of papers accepted for the third conference is also planned.

The structure for the conference includes key-note speakers, presentation of papers, panel discussions, work-in-progress sessions, and possible workshop activities. Address all correspondence to:

***United States of America***

Professor Thomas O. Bufod  
Furman University  
Department of Philosophy  
3300 Poinsett Highway  
Greenville, South Carolina  
29613-0464 U.S.A.

***U.K. and Europe***

Dr. Rob Fisher  
Westminster College  
School of Theology  
Harcourt Hill  
Oxford. OX2 9AT  
England

**Baptist Association of Philosophy Teachers 1996 Summer Seminar**

Date: May 19-25, 1996

Place: Moreau Seminary, South Bend

Topic: Kierkegaard's *Postscript: Knowledge and Subjectivity*

Located on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, this seminar will be led by C. Stephen Evans (William Spoelhop Scholar and Professor of Philosophy, Calvin College). Soren Kierkegaard's critique of absolute knowledge in *Concluding Unscientific Postscript* and its complicated relation to both modernity and post-modernity will be the topic.

Professor Evans will convene the seminar each morning and afternoon. Additional late morning sessions will be devoted to presentations or free-ranging discussions by participants.

Apply for the seminar by sending a statement of interest and current curriculum vita to Bob Kruschwitz, BAPT Secretary-Treasurer, Georgetown College, 400 E. College Street, Georgetown, KY 40324-1696. Please apply promptly since this seminar will be limited to 25 participants.

A seminar fee of \$230 (payable to BAPT) will cover all seminar expenses, including room, linens, and meals at Moreau Seminary from Sunday evening, May 19 through Saturday morning, May 25. Moreau Seminary invites participants to enjoy its grounds, library, and lounge. Participants will be responsible for travel expenses.

### Conference on Religious Pluralism:

#### The Changing Face of North America

Date: October 11-12, 1996

Place: Aquinas College

Submission Deadline: May 15, 1996

Many boundaries divide peoples and nations: seas and deserts, languages and cultures, ideologies and religions. Especially striking is the maintenance of internal boundaries within nations, continents or cultural groups. A classical example of such division is the boundary existing between East and West in Europe. The communist wall has gone, but a psychologically conditioned and morally mortgaged frontier remains.

It is all the more pleasant to find that the United Bible Societies, which promote Bible translations throughout the world, and the Society of Biblical Literature, the world's greatest scholarly biblical association, are making valiant efforts to overcome such schisms. Their admirable attitude encouraged the Coordinating Committee of the new Slovenian translation of the Bible to gather, on the occasion of its publication, scholars and lovers of the Bible from East and West to enjoy a scholarly and cultural interchange. The president of the Coordinating Committee Professor Jože Krašovec has suggested to the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts to organize an International Symposium on the Interpretation of the Bible. The Academy agreed and has nominated, on 31 January 1996, its member Professor Krašovec President of the Organizing Committee. During the following months Professor Krašovec has invited the following institutions to cooperate: the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the University of Ljubljana, the United Bible Societies, the Society of Biblical Literature, the Catholic Biblical Federation, and the Oriental Institute of Rome. The response of the world's leading specialists in hermeneutics and in various ancient and Slavonic Bible translations has been very encouraging. It is all the more appropriate that in parallel with the Symposium, a biblical exhibition will take place, sponsored by the National and University Library and the National Gallery in Ljubljana, while in the evenings two concerts and the Solemn Inauguration of the new Slovenian translation of the Bible will be presented in the principal concert

hall of the Cultural and Congress Center in Ljubljana. On one of those evenings, a major composition by the Czech composer Petr Eben will be given its first performance.

As is evident from such plans, the purposes of the celebration are manifold: to present at the highest scholarly level — observing the principle of equality between languages and cultures — the traits and distinctive features of hermeneutics as manifested in ancient and Slavonic Bible translations; to ponder the role of the Bible in contemporary hermeneutics in general and in various national cultures in particular; to establish closer links between scholars from East and West; and to strengthen the ecumenical dimension in biblical in biblical interpretation. The publication of the book of Books in a new Slovene translation provides a custom-built occasion for such a gathering. Since Slovene is not a major language, the gathering, firmly based on biblical ideas and values, may symbolize an awareness of the importance of every language as a nation's main mark of identity. We shall be happy to act as hosts to a number of distinguished Israeli scholars and to collaborate with the Israel Academy of Sciences and Arts. This collaboration may serve to express the common endeavors of nations that are not great in numbers but are yet strong in the determination to survive and to preserve their national and cultural identities.

Within this framework, we are happy to invite not only the scholars who will deliver their papers in the Symposium, but also other scholars and lovers of the Bible from East and West to share our delight in accomplishment of a major national project, to contribute to the celebration by their interest in the cause of the Bible, and to manifest a sense of unity among peoples.

The registration fees for the event will be 150 US Dollars, and may be paid at the time of final registration. For countries in transition a reduction will be provided upon written request until the end of August 1996.

To register for the meeting and to receive further information, interested parties should send name, position, institution, mailing address (with postal and country code), phone and fax numbers (with country codes) to:

**Presentation of the Bible, Organizing Committee, Dolnicarjeva 1, SI-61000, Ljubljana, Slovenia Tel: +386-61-313-329 Fax: +386-133-0405**

### III. *Fellowships*

#### Notre Dame Center for Philosophy of Religion

##### Senior and Junior Fellowships

The Center for Philosophy of Religion at the University of Notre Dame announces four fellowships for the 1996-97 academic year. Our *Postdoctoral Fellowships* (two available) provide a stipend of \$30,000 (teaching one course each semester; otherwise \$25,000) and are offered to those whose tenure at the Center would allow them to grow and make progress in philosophy of religion and theistic philosophy, subsequently disseminating and ex-

panding such work through their own teaching and writing. An *Extraordinary Fellowship* (one available) awards a \$30,000 stipend to a scholar who might not qualify for the fellowship described above, but who would benefit from a year at the Center—for example, foreign scholars or those outside the field of philosophy (e.g., theologians who want to enrich their understanding of philosophy of religion and theistic philosophy, humanists from other fields who could benefit by a deeper grasp of the sort of philosophy practiced at the Center, and scholars interested in a theistic approach to psychology, sociology, economics and other subjects.) Finally, a *Visiting Graduate Fellowship* (one available) provides a \$9,000 stipend to a philosophy graduate student at another institution who is working on a dissertation in philosophy of religion or Christian philosophy and who would profit from spending a year at the Center.

Postdoctoral Fellows will ordinarily be asked to teach one class each semester. Fellows will have access to many of the University's facilities (e.g., library and gymnasium), to the activities of the philosophy department (some seven of whom take philosophy of religion as their primary area of interest) and to the special activities of the Center (e.g., its weekly colloquia). Those with sabbatical support are welcome to apply. Applicants should see that the Center receives each of the following:

- (1) A complete *curriculum vitae* (or transcript, for the visiting graduate student applicants), which should include a list of publications and names of three people you will ask to send letters of recommendation on your behalf.
- (2) Three letters of recommendation.
- (3) A statement of no more than three pages (double-spaced) describing the Fellowship for which you are applying and the project on which you would like to work while at the Center.
- (4) One published or unpublished paper.

All material should be sent to: Alvin Plantinga, *Director*, Center for the Philosophy of Religion, 330 Decio Hall, P. O. Box 1068, Notre Dame, IN 46556.

The deadline for Extraordinary Fellowship applications for 1996-97 is December 1, 1995; for all other Fellowships, April 1, 1996.

### V. *Film Documentary*

PBS Series: The Wisdom of Faith with Huston Smith:

A Bill Moyers Special

Dates: Tuesdays, March 26 through April 23, 1996

Time: 10:00 p.m. EST (check local listings)

Topic: Huston Smith and Bill Moyers Delve into Six of the World's Greatest Religions

For half a century, Huston Smith has immersed himself in the world's religions, seeking to understand their hold on the human heart and imagina-

tion. Having delved into different faiths throughout the teachings of priests, rabbis, monks, Zen masters, philosophers, teachers and believers, Smith now shares his incredible experiences with journalist Bill Moyers in *The Wisdom of Faith with Huston Smith: A Bill Moyers Special*, a five-part PBS series airing Tuesdays, March 26-April 23, 1996, 10:00 p.m. EST (check local listings).

In each one-hour program, featuring dynamic conversation richly embellished with art, architecture, music and poetry from around the world, Moyers and Smith discuss six of the world's great religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

Smith, 76, is currently a visiting professor at the University of California at Berkeley. He taught previously at Washington University in St. Louis, MIT and Syracuse University. But Smith is more than a scholar and teacher. He is a pilgrim seeking to experience personally the spiritual truths to which the different religions point. He remains a Methodist, the faith into which he was born of missionary parents in China, but he practices yoga, prays five times a day as Muslims do, has endured the rigors of a Zen monastery and has joined his daughter and her Jewish husband in observing the Sabbath and Seder.

The first program looks at Hinduism and Buddhism. Smith first visited India in 1957 and later spent part of a sabbatical among Tibetan lamas in exile in Northern India. Smith tells Moyers how he discovered the mysteries of multi-phonetic chanting — a form of meditation. He also spent 10 weeks studying with a Zen master. He recounts the physically exhausting and mentally fascinating practice of silently meditating eight hours a day.

The second program explores Confucianism and yoga. Born in China, Smith absorbed the world views of Chinese culture and religion. He and Moyers discuss the intertwining of opposites which is the key to understanding Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism.

Moyers and Smith discuss Christianity and Judaism in the third program. "Why do people pray?" Moyers asks. For Smith, prayer is an impulse to understand "the deepest strata of our being." He continues by saying that prayer leads to a sense of belonging. But, because humans are so removed from spirituality, it is difficult to understand the true meaning of Christianity today. Moyers and Smith then discuss the intimate relationship between Jews and their God calling it "a living conversation between the human and the divine that goes on generation after generation."

The fourth program delves into Islam and Sufi mysticism. In 1970, Smith studies with a Sufi mystic and became enamored with the Islamic conceptions of order, justice, mercy and compassion. Moyers and Smith discuss the many facets of Islam, read the poetry of Rumi, the 13th century Sufi, examine the misconceptions about the Muslim world held by many in the West and look at how mysticism can potentially bridge the divisions among people.

*The Wisdom of Faith with Huston Smith: A Bill Moyers Special* is closed captioned for deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers.

*The Wisdom of Faith with Huston Smith: A Bill Moyers Special* is produced by Public Affairs Television, Inc., and is presented by Thirteen/WNET New York. Executive producers: Judith Davidson Moyers and Judy Doctoroff O'Neill. Producer/director: Pamela Mason Wagner. Coordinating producer: Rebecca Wharton. Executive editor: Bill Moyers. Editor: Julie Parroni. Researcher: Gwendolyn Dixon. Production executive: Arthur White.

**Funding is provided by Mutual of America Life Insurance Company, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the LSR Fund.**

Contact: Doris Lang Thomas, Public Affairs Television, Tel: 212-560-6974; Fax: 212-560-6646.

*Erratum:*

Thomas Talbott's book review of Jerry Walls, *The Logic of Damnation*, which appeared in the January 1995 issue of *Faith and Philosophy*, contained critical typographical errors. Smooth breathing indicators did not appear where necessary; in many cases, the letter " " appeared incorrectly with either a grave or a circumflex accent over it, the letter " " appeared in its place with an acute accent over it and an *iota* subscript under it. Thus, "αιώνιος," which was repeated many times, consistently appeared incorrectly as either "ἄιώνιος" or "ἧιώνιος"; "εις κόλασιν αιώνιον" ("into eternal punishment") appeared incorrectly as "χρονοῖς αιωνίοις" ("long ages" or "eternal times") appeared incorrectly as "χράνοῖς ἄιωνίοις." Other variations on these egregious errors appeared as well.

*The editors regret the errors.*