

# Table of Contents

Perry Schmidt-Leukel

**Preface — 1**

**Introduction — 5**

The Ambivalence of Religions — 5

Pluralistic Theology and Interreligious Theology — 6

Jewish Dialogical Thinking and Dialogical Theology — 6

The Value of Interreligious Theology — 7

“Trans-Difference” — 8

Dialogue, Hospitality, Translating, and Listening — 11

A Multiperspective Approach to the Ultimate Reality — 12

Resisting the Abolition of Differences — 12

Religions and a Peaceful Society — 14

Presence and a Hermeneutics of the Other — 14

Incomparability, Knowledge, and Meeting — 15

Acknowledgments — 15

## **I Jewish Dialogical Philosophy and Interreligious Theology**

### **Chapter 1**

**Jewish Dialogical Thinkers and Interreligiosity — 19**

Scholarly Studies on Dialogue between Judaism and Other Religions — 20

Martin Mordecai Buber (1878–1965) — 25

Franz Rosenzweig (1886–1929) — 32

Abraham Joshua Heschel (1907–1972) — 40

Jewish Theology and Dialogue — 44

Perspectives: Invitation to Dialogue — 45

### **Chapter 2**

**Buddhist Thought and Heschel’s Jewish Philosophy: An Encounter — 50**

Heschel’s Religious Philosophy — 51

Religion, Human Rights and Depth Theology — 54

Buddhism and Heschel’s Judaism — 55

Towards an Interreligious Dialogue and Theology — 60

### **Chapter 3**

#### **Successful Interreligiosity: A Case Study — 62**

### **Chapter 4**

#### **Building Blocks for Interreligious Dialogue and Theology — 69**

Cultural Changes — 69

Religion and the Ineffable — 70

Positioning Oneself in Dialogue with the Other — 71

Dialogue as Successful Meeting — 72

Presuppositions for Dialogue — 72

The Relevance of Presence in Martin Buber — 73

Emmanuel Levinas's Concept of Difference — 74

Heschel's "No Religion Is an Island" — 75

Interreligious Learning — 77

Translation, Untranslatability, Difference, and Trans-Difference — 77

Admitting Negative Points, Adopting Maximum Interpretations, Making  
Changes — 78

A New We? — 80

Radical Otherness, Differences, and Trans-Difference — 81

Three Final Remarks — 82

### **Chapter 5**

#### **The Buber-Rosenzweig Bible Translation as a Jewish Dialogical Enterprise — 83**

The Context: Dialogical Thinking and Speech Thinking — 83

A Jewish Translation — 96

"Tombstone" or Testimony of a Dialogical Life? — 112

### **Chapter 6**

#### **German-Jewish Religious Thinkers as Jews and Germans — 117**

Moses Mendelssohn — 119

Samson Raphael Hirsch — 120

Hermann Cohen — 121

Franz Rosenzweig — 122

Martin Buber — 127

Multiculturalism — 128

## **II Towards an Interreligious Theology**

### **Chapter 7**

#### **On the Necessity of Trans-Difference — 131**

The Role of Religions — 131

Religion as Violence — 134

Religiosity as Humanizing Force — 136

Dialogical Hermeneutics — 140

Towards Trans-Difference — 141

Religion as Social Critique and Defense of Human Rights — 143

### **Chapter 8**

#### **Constructing Religious Identity — 146**

Searching and Shaping Identity — 147

Autonomy and the Need for Recognition — 147

Problematic and Healthy Meta-Narratives — 148

Maintaining Unity in Multiple Situations — 149

Dialogue between the Self and the Other — 150

Dialogue between Collective Egos — 150

Religious Meta-Narrative and Personal Identity — 151

Narrative of the Self in Relation with the Other — 152

### **Chapter 9**

#### **Interreligious Exegesis: An Example — 153**

Two Preliminary Remarks — 154

The Meaning of the Third Commandment in Jewish Tradition — 154

Theological Reflection on the Meaning of the Commandment Today — 155

Interreligious or Dialogical Reflections — 155

Interreligious learning in a Broader Perspective — 158

### **Chapter 10**

#### **Dialogical Philosophy and Social Transformation — 162**

Buber's Relational Thought as Transformative Model — 163

Spirit and Dialogical Man — 163

I as "I-you" — 164

The Concrete Spirituality of Religious Humanism — 165

"I-you" and "I-it": Separate Worlds? — 166

Hebrew Humanism — 168

The Challenge of Transformative Thinking — 169

Dialogue between Groups — 169

**The Spirit of Israel — 170**

**Narrow Nationalism and Communicative Openness — 172**

**Alternative Thinking — 173**

## **Chapter 11**

**Interreligious Theology as a New Kind of Theology — 174**

**Classical Theology or Religious Studies? — 174**

**Different Tasks — 175**

**The Question of Secular Science — 176**

**Complementary Standpoints — 177**

**The Case of the Study of Hassidism — 178**

**Interreligious Theology — 178**

**Philosophy of Religion, Science of Religion, and**

**Interreligious Theology — 180**

**Contextual Interreligious Theology — 181**

**Interreligious Theology and Comparative Theology — 182**

**Translating — 182**

**Particular or Universal Pluralism? — 183**

**Education and Anti-Bias — 185**

## **Chapter 12**

**Beyond the Boundaries — 187**

**Interreligious Dialogues — 187**

## **Postscriptum — 200**

**The Necessity of Dialogue — 200**

**Celebrating Diversity — 201**

**Enriching the Self — 202**

**Hospitality — 202**

**Dialogical Hermeneutics — 203**

**Towards Encounters — 203**

**A Radical Change of Mind — 204**

## **Bibliography — 205**

## **Index of Subjects — 214**

## **Index of Names — 217**