

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

Multiculturality — 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