HESCHEL'S VIEW OF RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

A number of prominent Christian theologians who have contemplated the issue of religious diversity speak of three major models for approaching it: exclusivist, inclusivist, and pluralist. Claiming that “diversity of religions is the will of God,” Abraham Joshua Heschel was certainly no exclusivist. But he also was neither a pluralist nor an inclusivist in the way these terms are commonly used by Christian theologians. Much like the Dalai Lama’s perspective on Buddhism vis-à-vis other religions, Heschel’s distinctive Jewish approach to religious diversity transcended the categories created by Christian scholars.

KEYWORDS

Keywords: Heschel; God; religious diversity; interfaith relations; exclusivism; inclusivism; pluralism; Dalai Lama

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Religious diversity religious diversity. [This entry examines the origins and differing patterns of development of the world's major religious traditions, as well as the varying patterns of interaction between these religions and the social, political, and economic frameworks with which they coexist.] Source for information on Religious Diversity: Encyclopedia of Religion dictionary. From the point of view of my discussion the most crucial difference is between those civilizations that can legitimately be called heterodoxies and those that are more appropriately labeled sects. The term heterodoxy is, of course, applicable only in cases where one can talk about orthodoxy, and this term in its turn implies certain types of organizational and cognitive doctrinal structures. Abraham joshua heschel. I speak as a member of a congregation whose founder was Abraham, and the name of my rabbi is Moses. I speak as a person who was able to leave Warsaw, the city in which I was born, just six weeks before the disaster began. My destination was New York, it would have been Auschwitz or Treblinka. I am a brand plucked from the fire, in which my people was burned to death. I am a brand plucked from the fire of an altar of Satan on which millions of human lives were exterminated to evil's greater glory, and on which so much else was consumed: the divine image of so many questions of secularism and religious diversity. There will be four world-class senior scholars in residence to lead the workshop: Sally Shuttleworth (Oxford). Susannah Heschel (Dartmouth). Bernard Lightman (York University, Toronto). Suzanne Marchand (Louisiana State University). Expert Speaker: Susannah Heschel (Dartmouth College). Abraham Geiger, Judaism and its History. Volume II, lecture 4 (Islam), pp. 247-259 and lecture 9 (The Orient, Spain from 1070 to 1140), pp. 317-331. From Toleration to Inequality? Constitutional Formations of Religious Freedom in Nineteenth-Century France, Germany, and the Netherlands. Blog: Pablo Muñoz Iturrieta. 15:00 - 16:00.