

Imagining the Jewish God

Edited by Leonard Kaplan
and Ken Koltun-Fromm

LEXINGTON BOOKS
Lanham • Boulder • New York • London

Contents

Acknowledgments	ix
Introduction	xi
<i>Leonard Kaplan and Ken Koltun-Fromm</i>	
PART I. PROLOGUE: INSCRIPTION	
1 On the Poetics of the Jewish God	3
<i>Norman Finkelstein and Michael Heller</i>	
2 Seeing Divine Writing: Thoughts on the Drama of the Outside within the Technology of Inscription	19
<i>Lewis Freedman</i>	
3 Questions Posed to Jonathan Boyarin	33
<i>Jonathan Boyarin</i>	
PART II. OUT OF LEVANT: BIBLICAL AND RABBINIC IMAGININGS OF GOD	
4 Classical Jewish Ethics and Theology in the Halakhic Tractates of the Mishnah	47
<i>Jonathan Wyn Schofer</i>	
5 What the Hebrew Bible Can/Cannot Teach Us about God	63
<i>Kenneth Seeskin</i>	
6 The Bible as Torah: How J, E, P, and D Can Teach Us about God	83
<i>Benjamin D. Sommer</i>	

7	Job, the Levantine Book: A Beginning Guide through Human Perplexity <i>Leonard Kaplan</i>	103
8	Job: Two Endings, Three Openings <i>Alicia Ostriker</i>	133
PART III. CLINGING TO GOD: THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL IMAGINATION		
9	The Repersonalization of God: Monism and Theological Polymorphism in Zoharic and Hasidic Imagination <i>Jay Michaelson</i>	143
10	The Word of God Is No Word at All: Intimacy and the Nothingness of God <i>Shaul Magid</i>	163
11	Who Is God? <i>Lenn Goodman</i>	179
12	Jewish Theology and the Transcendental Turn <i>Randi Rashkover</i>	205
13	The Perils of Covenant Theology: The Cases of David Hartman and David Novak <i>Martin Kavka</i>	227
14	Freud's Imagining God <i>David Novak</i>	255
PART IV. INSCRIPTION: GOD IN JEWISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE		
15	God of Language <i>Michael Marmor</i>	267
16	Location, Location, Location: Toward a Theology of Prepositions <i>Rebecca Alpert</i>	293
17	Rethinking Milton's Hebraic God <i>Noam Reisner</i>	299
18	Yosl Rakover Speaks to G-d <i>Elissa J. Sampson</i>	319

19	“Don’t Forget the Potatoes”: Imagining God Through Food <i>Susan Handelman</i>	347
20	Imagining the Jewish God in Comics <i>Ken Koltun-Fromm</i>	369
PART V. POETICS: GOD IN LANGUAGE		
21	God’s Inside/The Line of a Poem: A Philosophical Commentary <i>Zachary Braiterman</i>	405
22	Reconciling God, Revisioning Prayer, and Reaching into the Spaces Between in Selected Works by Alicia Ostriker, Marcia Falk, and Rachel Blau DuPlessis <i>Allison Creighton</i>	431
23	Unimagining the Jewish God (Remix) <i>Charles Bernstein</i>	451
24	Poems and Commentary <i>Laynie Browne</i>	453
25	Poems <i>Clive Meachen</i>	457
26	Parables and Commentary <i>Howard Schwartz</i>	459
27	Poems and Commentary <i>Rachel Blau DuPlessis</i>	467
28	Poems <i>Bill Sherman</i>	475
29	Poems <i>David Weisstub</i>	477
30	Poems <i>James Chapson</i>	481
31	Poems <i>Jack Hirschman</i>	485
32	Poems from <i>The Days Between</i> <i>Marcia Falk</i>	493

33	Poems and Prose <i>Jeff Friedman</i>	497
34	Poems <i>Gerald Stern</i>	503
35	Poems <i>Michael Castro</i>	505
36	Poems and Commentary <i>Jerome Rothenberg</i>	511
37	Poems <i>Alicia Ostriker</i>	517
	Index	521
	About the Contributors	543