



Existenz

An International Journal in Philosophy, Religion, Politics, and the Arts

Volume 7

Number 2

Fall 2012

ISSN 1932-1066

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Volume 7/2, Fall 2012

Editors' Introduction

Alan M. Olson, Helmut Wautischer
Boston University, Sonoma State University

iii

Introduction to *Tama in Japanese Myth* With Reply to my Critics

Tomoko Iwasawa
Reitaku University, Japan

1

Commentary on Iwasawa's *Tama in Japanese Myth*

Michael Palencia-Roth
University of Illinois

7

Review of Tomoko Iwasawa's *Tama in Japanese Myth*

Fabio Rambelli
University of California, Santa Barbara

12

Demythologizing and Remythologizing *Tama*

Purushottama Bilimoria
University of California, Berkeley; The University of Melbourne, Australia; Deakin University, Australia

15

Remarks on *Melancholy and the Otherness of God*

Alina Feld
Hofstra University

21

A Note on Feld's *Remarks on Melancholy and the Otherness of God*

Tom Rockmore
Duquesne University

28

Alina N. Feld's *Melancholy and the Otherness of God*

Thomas J.J. Altizer
State University of New York at Stony Brook

33

Theology as Therapy: Reflections on Alina N. Feld's *Melancholy and the Otherness of God*

Michael L. Raposa
Lehigh University

35

The God of the Existentialist Philosophers – Fate, Freedom, and the Mystery

David P. Nichols
Saginaw Valley State University

38

Humanity under Test – Comments on the God of Sartre, Heidegger, and Jaspers

Chung-ying Cheng
University of Hawai'i, Manoa

47

The God Question

Catharina Stenqvist
Lunds Universitet, Sweden

51

Comments on David Nichols' *The God of the Existentialist Philosophers*

Purushottama Bilimoria
University of California, Berkeley; The University of Melbourne, Australia; Deakin University, Australia

54

Pascal Bruckner – Guilt in Western Consciousness

Troy Bruner
Camas Institute, Spokane, Washington

59

EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

During the past several years the Karl Jaspers Society of North America (KJSNA) has been celebrating the recently published works of its members and first-books by junior scholars by way of book review panels at the annual meetings of the American Philosophical Association, the proceedings of these sessions being published in *Existenz* 6/1, 6/2, 7/1, and now 7/2. The book sessions for the reviews in this current volume took place in Washington DC (2011) and Seattle (2012), and they have special significance for me since they are about the first books of my former students, Alina N. Feld and Tomoko Iwasawa. Alina has taught at Hofstra University and presently is the interim director of the Global Studies Program of Long Island University in Bangalore, India. Tomoko Iwasawa is Associate Professor of Comparative Religions at Reitaku University in Tokyo, Japan, and serves as the executive director of the International Shinto Studies Association (ISSA). These remarkable young teachers/scholars are among the very best graduate students I have been privileged to instruct during my 40+ years career of service at Boston University, and I am honored to preview their work in this Foreword.

Tomoko's *Tama in Japanese Myth* is considered by her critics a "breakthrough" study in the field of Japanese religion and literature, being the first to incorporate Continental hermeneutics (especially the work of Paul Ricoeur, Hans-Georg Gadamer, and Karl Jaspers) as a primary methodological means of interpreting classic Japanese texts, such as the *Kojiki*, a foundational source of influence in the formation of the Japanese religious and philosophical consciousness. Her argument convincingly establishes the symbolism of *tama* as being of equal or even greater influence than *kami* in this development; and it is an argument with great social and political implication in contemporary Japanese cultural studies.

Alina's book impressively displays her talents as a master of the history of Christian philosophy and theology (whether Catholic or Orthodox). Her expertise in European languages, both ancient and modern, provides her with the basis of substantive access to contemporary movements in literary criticism and continental philosophy, especially French phenomenology, deconstruction theory, and the apocalyptic themes and insights in the radical theology of Thomas J.J. Altizer, with whom she worked while completing a masters in comparative literature at SUNY/Stony Brook. As her critics and commentators point out, *Melancholia and the Otherness of God*, not only resurrects the meaning of acedia as one of the lost "seven deadly sins" but does so in a manner that reconnects it compellingly with the abundant but often superficial contemporary literature on boredom and depression and that it also suggests possible strategies, as one of her critics, Michael Raposa suggests, for this perplexing condition.

David P. Nichols presented his essay at the APA meeting in Seattle (2012) in a second session organized by KJSNA along with three critical reviews of his thesis on the influence of apopathic mysticism on existentialist philosophers, notably Jaspers, Sartre, and Heidegger. This volume closes with an essay by psychologist Troy Bruner who reviews Paul Bruckner's work on guilt consciousness in relation to the concept of collective guilt as discussed by Karl Jaspers and Viktor Frankl.

The Editors,
Alan M. Olson
Helmut Wautischer

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Alan M. Olson

Helmut Wautischer

ADVISORY BOARD

Elena Bezzubova

Andreas Cesana

Stephen A. Erickson

Helena Gourko

Tomoko Iwasawa

Raymond Langley

Gladys L. Portuondo

Kurt Salamun

Chris Thornhill

Gregory J. Walters

Mission Statement

The mission of *Existenz* is to encourage research and publication on problems and topics consistent with the general overview of Karl Jaspers, namely, the history of philosophy, phenomenology, existentialism, and hermeneutics; psychology, philosophy of religion, politics, culture, and the arts. This journal serves as a publication outlet for various international Jaspers societies, including those in the United States, Germany, Austria, Great Britain, Russia, and Japan, and also considers direct submissions of articles for online publication. *Existenz* is indexed in *The Philosopher's Index*.

Correspondence

Direct all correspondence to the editors as posted at www.existenz.us/submissionguidelines.html