

BOOK REVIEWS

**Nicholas DE LANGE, Elena NARINSKAYA, Sybil SHERIDAN (eds.),
Elonei Mamre: The Encounter of Judaism and Orthodox Christianity,
Lexington Books/Fortress Academic, Lanham-Boulder-New York -
London, 2023, i-xviii + 188 p., ISBN: 9781978713987**

The literature devoted to encounters between Judaism and Christianity is almost impossible to inventory. But when it comes to encounters between Judaism and Orthodox Christianity, the truth is that very little has been written. The reasons for this discrepancy are numerous and difficult to list here. In this context, the appearance of the volume on *Encounter between Judaism and Orthodox Christianity* edited by Nicholas de Lange, Elena Narinskaya and Sybil Sheridan is most welcome. Anyone interested in the relationship between Judaism and Christianity will be interested in this volume, and those particularly interested in the relationship between Judaism and *Orthodox* Christianity will use this volume as a valuable tool.

The importance of the volume is evident from the simple fact that it mirrors the work of more than two decades of an informal dialogue. We learn from the *Introduction* provided by Rabbi Nicholas de Lange that “this book grew out of the work of a group of Jewish and Orthodox Christian theologians which has been meeting regularly over many years for the purpose of encounter and dialogue.” (p. x) The mere fact that this dialogue exists, and that it began as early as 1997, is very good news for all those interested in the subject; Especially since before this period and the Second World War “genuine dialogue – in which both sides listen – was rare or nonexistent.” The contributions in this volume are papers given by members of this dialogue group over a long period of time, which is why on the one side some authors are present with two (Elena Narinskaya) or even three articles (Fr. Andrew Louth). On the other side, some other members of the group, Christian and Jewish alike, passed to the Lord (e.g., Archpriest Sergei Hackel, Bishop Kallistos Ware).

As a collection of papers collected over many years of meetings and discussions, the volume addresses from both Christian and Jewish perspective a variety of topics extremely relevant to the Jewish-Christian dialogue, including mysticism based on Jewish scriptures, monotheism, the concept of love, the issue of religious identity as a reaction to the “other”, the veneration of icons and other objects of worship, the concept of tradition, elements of common worship, the theme of "blood libel" and, as expected, the theme of anti-Judaism present in the Orthodox liturgy. The interest of the group, and which is implicit from this volume's papers, is “to explore, through a plurality of voices, both the glue and the barriers.” (p. x)

Here I must point out that the academic world, especially in the case of the dialogue between Judaism and Orthodox Christianity, rarely has access to such volumes which simultaneously deal with the above themes from both a Christian