

FOREWORD

Avi Sagi and Daniel Statman have written a critical analysis of the point where ethics may be joined to divinity. At stake is the very justification for our morality and the very existence of God. Throughout the book three great questions keep making themselves heard: (1) From Socrates, Is the good good because it is loved by God, or does God love the good because it is good? (2) From Kierkegaard, How can a person of faith like Abraham obey a God who orders the sacrifice of that person's innocent child? (3) And from Dostoyevsky, If God does not exist isn't everything permitted?

Statman and Sagi wend their way through such delicate and fearsome problems with unshakable logic. They painstakingly clarify connectives, test consequences, and unearth presuppositions. They clear the disputed terrain of intellectual minefields so that others may safely visit the issues. While traditional philosophical and religious positions may be disarmed by the critique offered here, Sagi and Statman do not waver in their commitment to a morality that stands against such inhumanities as murder.

Originally written in Hebrew, this book has been expertly translated into English by Batya Stein. The authors have revised the translation so that it represents the latest version of their thinking. Similar projects will be published by the **VALUE INQUIRY BOOK SERIES (VIBS)** as a special series on Israeli Value Studies (IVS), to be edited by Daniel Statman.

Robert Ginsberg
Executive Editor