

PREFACE

This work took shape at Brown University within the graduate seminar of my teacher, Professor Jacob Neusner. To document throughout what follows my reliance upon his insights is an impossible task; nor can a few words by way of preface adequately express my gratitude to him. Constructive criticism has been offered by my fellow graduate students, Mr. Spenser Ackerman, Prof. Baruch Bokser, Rabbi David Eisenman, Profs. Joel Gereboff and William Scott Green, Dr. Shammai Kanter, Mr. Irving Mandelbaum, Profs. Gary Porton and Charles Primus, Mr. Michael Rosen and Profs. Richard Sarason and Tzvee Zahavy. All of them deserve my thanks. Much of what I have learned from Profs. Wendell Dietrich, Ernest Frerichs and Horst Moehring also has informed my work. Professor Wayne Meeks commented upon an earlier draft of the study; his remarks have been helpful. The final manuscript was typed by Mrs. L. Granich and Ms. G. Kulawas, and I am grateful for their care. For any errors or omissions I alone claim responsibility.

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My final words are for my wife. She has supported me in this work in her own unique manner—encouraging me at moments of frustration as well as sharing in times of accomplishment. Beverly rightly deserves to share too in whatever is of value in this study.

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