

The Personhood of God - Biblical theology, Human faith and the Divine Image by Dr Yochanan Muffs, foreword by Dr David Hartman.  
Jewish Lights Publishing 2005.

Yochanan Muffs, a highly distinguished and renowned Professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary, is perhaps best known for his study of the legal papyri from the 6/5<sup>th</sup> century Jewish colony at Elephantine in Egypt; but I would be surprised if many, having completed *The Personhood of God*, did not see fit to name it as one of the best and clearest statements of a real and relevant theology as one might wish to read.

The book is divided into five sections: *The Biblical God in relationship with a people*, *The Divine Person*, *Aesthetic sensibility and religious imagination*, *Joy, Love, and Liturgy*, *Encountering the personhood of God*.

*The Personhood of God* can be approached in more than one way; certainly as a work of theology, for scholars or students alike, but perhaps even more important as a source of study and inspiration for those seeking to develop their own relationship with God. There is much to be praised in this text but for special consideration I would single out chapter 2, *The Essence of Biblical Process*, chapter 6, *Biblical Anthropomorphism* and chapter 12, *Theology and Poetics*.

This is a very special book.

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