

Joel Harter

Coleridge's Philosophy of Faith

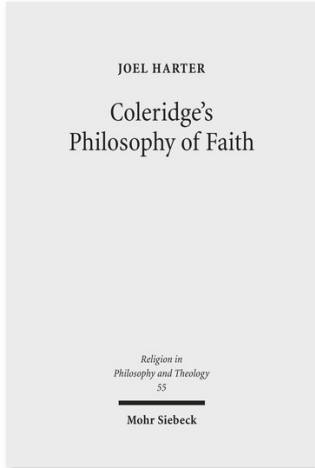
Symbol, Allegory, and Hermeneutics

[Coleridges Philosophie des Glaubens. Symbol, Allegorie und Hermeneutik.]

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Joel Harter reconstructs Samuel Taylor Coleridge's intellectual project as a philosophy of faith that anticipates modern philosophical hermeneutics, challenges reductive notions of reason and personhood, and illustrates the progressive potential of the biblical tradition. His central claim is that Coleridge's definition of the symbol is his attempt to reclaim an allegorical vision in response to modern alienation. The symbolic imagination affirms meaning through ongoing interpretation and informs Coleridge's various efforts in literature, philosophy, theology, and cultural criticism. Harter examines Coleridge's complex appropriation of Immanuel Kant and Friedrich Schelling, and clarifies the relationship of symbol to allegory and irony. Harter also responds to later postmodern challenges to meaning and transcendence. In a discussion that includes Paul Ricoeur, David Tracy, and modern theologies of symbol the author concludes that Coleridge's understanding of the symbol reconciles reason and revelation and that creative imagination is necessary for critical philosophy and theology.

Joel Harter Born 1972; 1995 BA in English Literature from Vanderbilt University; 1998 MA in English Literature from Northwestern University; 2000 M.T.S. from Harvard University; 2008 PhD in Religion and Literature from the University of Chicago; currently the Lilly Pastoral Resident at Hyde Park Union Church and Adjunct Instructor at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, IL.



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