

Religious Identity and the Buddhist Doctrine of No Self Christian and Jewish Perspectives



Presentations by

John P. Keenan and Harold Kasimow

For 2500 years, Buddhists have engaged in philosophical reflection upon what it means to be human and what it means to be awakened. The philosophical notions they have developed can be employed to advantage by religious thinkers of all traditions in today's pluralist world. Giving special emphasis to the Buddhist doctrine of No Self in relation to Western philosophical and religious views of religious identity, John P. Keenan and Harold Kasimow will suggest how Christians and Jews may be enriched through the study of Buddhism.

John P. Keenan, professor emeritus of religion at Middlebury College, is trained in both Christian theology and Buddhist studies. He has published translations and studies of Mahayana Buddhist texts as well as several works introducing and employing a Mahayana theology, including *The Meaning of Christ: A Mahayana Theology* and *I Am / No Self: A Christian Commentary on the Heart Sutra*.

Harold Kasimow is professor emeritus of religious studies at Grinnell College. Involved in Jewish-Buddhist dialogue since the 1960s, his books include *John Paul II and Interreligious Dialogue* and *No Religion is an Island: Abraham Joshua Heschel and Interreligious Dialogue*.

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