



The Divine Face in Biblical Texts: Religious Assets and Contexts



A Lecture and Video-Conference by Stéphanie Anthonioz,
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Thursday, February 22, 2018 4 p.m.-6 p.m. (Paris time) at the Ivry sur Seine CNRS building,
27 rue Paul Bert, Porte de Choisy/Porte d'Ivry subway station, room C in the basement **or by
distance through video-conference**

Contrary to the Platonic and Cartesian traditions of a dichotomy between body and spirit, both Sumerians and Akkadians understood the person as the assemblage of its parts. In biblical studies, this approach has permitted to give back to the physical person all its importance. This conception of the unity of the person, widespread in the ancient Near East, also applies to the divine world: the gods are also their objects, their places and their attributes. I would like to pursue a reflection that has long been engaged about the divine face in biblical texts and its representation. Among all the bodily parts, the face represents the interface between the interior and the exterior of the person. But it also stands for the statue of the deity. My aim is to examine the various references to the face in the prophetic book of Isaiah, and to show how they not only confirm the essential function of the face in religious communication, but also enable us to seize major diachronic evolutions and understand the historical assets of representing or not the deity in its temple.

This presentation constitutes the sixteenth monthly session of the interdisciplinary seminar “The Individual and his Body in the Ancient Mediterranean Basin” organized by Alice Mouton.

<http://www.labex-resmed.fr/l-individu-et-son-corps-dans-le>

<http://www.orient-mediterranee.com/spip.php?article2958&lang=en>

All the persons who are interested in attending the session (either in Ivry sur Seine or through video-conference) are welcome for free but **should register by e-mail** beforehand.

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