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Editor's Introduction

There is a great power that comes with honestly admitting when one is ignorant of something. Whether this ignorance pertains to the solution to overwhelming global problems or to a bit of fun trivia, I believe more is gained than lost from truthfully uttering the words, "I don't know." What is lost with this phrase is a sense of security; it feels good to have an answer, regardless of its accuracy, to things both big and small. But this is an insignificant price to pay once one acknowledges that an opportunity for learning and growth is gained in submitting to the (currently) unknown. To admit ignorance does not mean that we as individuals must abandon our beliefs, inclinations, convictions, and best guesses and state we know nothing at all. This would be just as rigid and absolutist as claiming omniscience. What it does require is a humble acceptance that we always have more to explore, analyze, and learn.

While simple in theory, the task of truthfully acknowledging ignorance proves to be quite challenging in practice. I find myself constantly struggling to make firm decisions based on my convictions while simultaneously acknowledging that I do not have all the answers. For me, editing for the Claremont Journal of Religion is a great reminder of the power and opportunity created by the unknown since it forces me to encounter a wide range of well-researched, interesting ideas and arguments that challenge my current beliefs. Editing this issue has been no exception since the bulk of the papers come from a class at Claremont Lincoln University (CLU) entitled "Liberalism and its Critics," which dealt with a variety of complex issues revolving around political theory and religion. In addition to these

excellent and diverse works is an article on the implications of recent events in Libya, an article on the canonization of Kateri Tekakwitha, the proceedings from “Ahimsa Day: 2012” at CLU, and lastly an obituary for the beloved scholar Marvin Meyer. I hope that as you read through and think over this journal that you will do so with a curious attitude of “I don’t know” and an excitement for the opportunity to learn something new. While exploring the unknown means risking the comfort of certainty, the fruits of this labor are the sweetest around.

I would like to thank Kile Jones for his constant encouragement and help throughout the making of this third issue; the Claremont Journal of Religion (CJR) would not be a reality without his hard work and know-how. I would also like to thank Richard Hankins for his assistance in editing and his positive attitude towards the tasks he accomplished. Next, I would like to thank our Editorial Advisory Board, as well as Richard Amesbury, Lachin Hatemi, Tia Carley, Kelsey Kimmel, Brooke Nelson and all of the hard-working referees. Also, I would like to give a special thanks to Iranian artist Haydar Hatemi for his contribution to the cover art. And lastly, I want to thank my wife and CJR Media Coordinator, Jessie Lyn Thompson, for her unconditional love and moral support.