Hans Jonas:
Rethinking the Meaning of God,
Evil and Faith after Auschwitz

The Concept of God after Auschwitz

The Principle of Responsibility

Gnostic Religion
Lectures will be held in English

**Abstracts**

**Catherine Chalier, Paris**

**Taking Evil Seriously**

In *The Concept of God after Auschwitz*, Jonas takes evil seriously, which means his trust in the world that he lives in has been shattered. He wonders what has happened to us - philosophers and theologians - after such a catastrophe. Are we left without direction? Although such questions had already been given a terrible answer in the Gnostic books that Jonas studied a lot (see his *Gnostic Religion*), he takes them anew and - in a way different from the Gnostics although closely related to them - he tries to stop us blaming God for the state of our world. He wants us to take on a responsibility for it. His book *The Principle of Responsibility* explains why it’s a matter of great urgency and an obligation. Is it his new trust in the world?

**Ron Margolin, Tel Aviv**

"*For the Image of God*"

Jonas created an alternative myth in which "man", was created "for" the image of God, rather than "in" his image. In my lecture I will discuss the meaning of his myth, his explanations of why we need such a myth and the "secular religiosity" characteristic of his thought, meaning his rational scientific way of thinking combined with elements of religious existentialism.

**Barbara Meyer, Jerusalem**

**Why Are Even Critical Concepts of God after the Shoah transient?**

God has been declared powerless, suffering, dead or even abusive after the Shoah. Each of these theological concepts was initially perceived as radical and different from mainstream theological thought. Especially theologies claiming the death of God intended to be provocative and challenging traditional beliefs. But even the most radical concepts of God after the Shoah have not maintained their critical power for a long time. How can this ephemerality be explained and are their more enduring ways to express a critique on God?