

RAYMOND-JACQUES TOURNAY: A TRIBUTE

Reverend Raymond-Jacques Tournay, O.P., who has for many years been the director of the *École Biblique et Archéologique Française de Jérusalem*, as well as editor of the *Revue Biblique*, has honored us with his collaboration since the founding of *Immanuel*. As he celebrates his seventy-fifth birthday this year, I would like to present best wishes on behalf of the entire staff of *Immanuel*, both for his work as a biblical scholar as well as for his dedication to the cause of poor and suffering humanity, to which he has devoted a great deal of his time and energy. I have special reason to express my gratitude, as I had the privilege of being one of his pupils some fifty years ago. He was the first to initiate me into knowledge of the Hebrew language and of the Psalms. I present my wishes with the conviction that he will continue his collaboration in the new format of *Immanuel*. To one-hundred twenty years. *Ad multos annos!*

Fr. Marcel Jacques Dubois, O.P.

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We, your colleagues on the Editorial Board of *Immanuel*, dedicate this section of *Immanuel* to you with feelings of esteem and friendship on your seventy-fifth birthday. On this occasion, allow me to say something about your activities as teacher, scholar and friend — for, according to the Talmudic saying, we should recite only part of a person's praise to his face.

Your many years of activity in Jerusalem have concentrated upon your teaching of the Bible at the French Catholic institution, L'École Biblique et Archéologique Française, where you have served as professor, and your extensive scholarly research in the fields of Bible and Ancient Near Eastern studies. The greater part of your monographic studies, which number in the scores, have been published in *Revue Biblique*, the most important French quarterly of Bible studies, of which you have served as editor.

Your studies in the field of Assyriology, some of which have been published in that same journal, are of great scientific importance, but the bulk of your creative work has been the research of the Book of Books and, at the center of our interest, the Psalm literature. Over the course of forty years, you have published monographs and studies concerning specific problems — literary, linguistic, theological and historical — most of which pertain to the Book of Psalms and to ancient Biblical poetry. Your most comprehensive contribution is your French translation and annotations on this book, which has appeared in a number of editions.¹

1. *Les Psaumes*, traduits par R. Tournay and R. Schwab, Notes de R. Tournay. 3rd ed. (Paris, 1964). To mention but a few of your essays on general problems in the Psalm literature and on individual psalms: "Poésie biblique et traduction française. Un essai: Le Psaume XI," *RB* liii (1946), 349-364; "Les Psaumes complexes," *RB* liv (1947), 521-542; lvi (1949), 36-60; "L'eschatologie individuelle dans les Psaumes," *RB* lvi (1949), 481-506; "Le Psaume et les bénédictions de Moïse (Deut. xxxiii)," *RB* lxx (1958), 181-213.

Throughout your numerous studies, you have remained loyal to the critical historical-philological approach, refusing to submit to the changing fashions which affected Biblical scholarship during the present century. You have demonstrated openness to various currents, but without involving yourself in unnecessary polemics you said what you had to say and chose that which was good and useful in your eyes. Your significant studies are deserving of publication in collected form.

The second book to which you have dedicated yourself is the book of love – the Song of Songs. You have also published articles concerning it, and translated and interpreted it in the French language.² In addition, you have come to grips anew, in a scholarly way, with various theological problems, including those which over the course of the millennia were the bone of contention of Jewish-Christian polemic, such as the problem of Emmanuel in Isaiah 7, of the servant of the Lord in Second Isaiah, and of the messianic-christological interpretation of Psalm 2.³

The most striking characteristic of your scholarly work has been the combination of openness to problems and ideas, on the one hand, and independence of thought, on the other. You derived from this your conclusion that the Book of Psalms was the result of creativity extending from the earliest days of the Kingship until the 3rd century B.C.⁴ Anyone who wishes to deal seriously with this book today cannot ignore your contribution towards clarifying its numerous difficulties.

You are among the “pure-minded people of Jerusalem,” who walk in humility and accomplish much. Like the proverbial plastered cistern, you do not lose a drop, while your creative powers are like a flowering spring. It is our prayer that God grant you many more years of health and joy in creation, and that your inspiration and wisdom will continue to accompany us to one hundred and twenty.

Binyamin Uffenheimer

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2. *Le cantique des cantiques*. Traduction et commentaire par A. Robert & R. Tournay. (Paris, 1963); *Quand Dieu parle aux hommes le langage de l'amour; Etudes sur le Cantique des cantiques* [Cah Rev. Bibl. 21. (Paris, 1982)]; “The Song of Songs and its Concluding Section,” *Immanuel* x(1980), 5-14; “Abraham et le Cantique des cantiques,” *Vet. Test.* xxv (1975), 544-552; “Les chariots d’Aminadab (Cant. vi:12): Israël, peuple théophore,” *VT* (1959), 288-309; etc.

3. “L’Emmanuel et sa Vierge-Mère,” *Revue Thomiste* lv (1955), 249-258; “Les chants du Serviteur dans la seconde partie d’Isaïe,” *RB* lix (1952), 355-384, 481-512. “Le Psaume (Ps. 2) le Roi-Messie. Fête du Christ-Roi,” in *Assemblées du Seigneur* lxxxviii (1966), 46-63.

4. “Recherches sur la chronologie des Psaumes,” *RB* lxxv (1958), 321-357, lxxvi (1959), 161-190; “Le Psaume LXVIII et le livre des Juges,” *RB* lxxvi (1959), 358-368.