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**SYMPOSIUM:**  
**Rav Soloveitchik's**  
***Kol Dodi Dofek* at Fifty**

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**PREFACE**

On *Yom ha-Atsma'ut* 5716, at a time when Israel faced the increasingly aggressive threats of the Nasserite regime in Egypt that led up to the Suez war in October 1956, *Maran ha-Rav* Joseph Soloveitchik delivered his famous address *Kol Dodi Dofek*. Upon publication, the essay rapidly became a classic of religious Zionism and, despite its daunting literary complexity, it was assigned in many Israeli high schools.

*Kol Dodi Dofek* discusses many important questions in Jewish thought and Zionist self-understanding. These include theodicy and the Holocaust, the meaning of history, the contemporary significance of the Jewish state, the dual theological nature of the Jewish people, and the nature of secular Jewish identity from a Torah perspective.

The fiftieth anniversary of *Kol Dodi* is an appropriate time to reconsider the essay's permanent contribution to Jewish thought and its impact on the current intellectual scene. The authors in this *Tradition* symposium have been invited to evaluate their own response to *Kol Dodi* and their perception of its ongoing influence. To what extent does the Rav's work provide a satisfactory framework for exploring history, the State of Israel and Jewish identity? To what extent does it complement alternate outlooks, such as those deriving from the thought of Rav Kook? Or are the tensions between the Rav's approach and competing formulations so sharp that one must choose one or the other? What elements in the Rav's essay allow and require reworking in the light of present developments?

SHALOM CARMY  
Editor

**A KOL DODI DOFEK BIBLIOGRAPHY**

The essay was first published in Simon Federbush, ed., *Torah u-Melukha: Al Mekom ha-Medina ba-Yahadut* (Jerusalem: Mosad ha-Rav Kook, 1961), 11-44 and reprinted in *Ish ha-Emuna* (Jerusalem: Mosad ha-Rav Kook, 1968), 65-106; in Pinhas Peli, ed., *Be-Sod ha-Yahid ve-haYahad: Mivhar Ketavim Ivriyyim* (Jerusalem: Orot, 1976), 331-400; and in *Divrei Hagut ve-Ha'arakha* (Jerusalem: World Zionist Organization, 1982), 9-55. An English translation by Lawrence Kaplan was published in Bernhard H. Rosenberg and Fred Heuman, eds., *Theological and Halakhic Reflections on the Holocaust* (Hoboken: Ktav, 1992), 51-117 and reprinted as *Fate and Destiny: From the Holocaust to the State of Israel* (Hoboken: Ktav, 2000). The essay was recently published with a new translation by David Z. Gordon and edited by Jeffrey R. Woolf in conjunction with Yeshiva University Press as *Kol Dodi Dofek: Listen—My Beloved Knocks* (Jersey City: Ktav, 2005).

All references to *Kol Dodi Dofek* in this volume follow the pagination of *Fate and Destiny: From the Holocaust to the State of Israel* (Hoboken: Ktav, 2000).