



Heavens in the Tent

The Sanctuary embodies Israel's concept of holiness. For this tent pitched in the sand of the wilderness is the place where the Creator of the universe has chosen to dwell among humans; as the ancient Midrash puts it, "the earthly sanctuary mirrored the heavenly domain" (*Yal. Ps. 713*).

This special issue of *Shabbat Shalom* has been devoted to a reflection on the meaning of this particular tent, which is in touch with the heavenly realities. We will thus remember that we are still in the wilderness, and yet we shall reconnect with the God of the Sanctuary and the God of Creation. Although some of these articles were already given in a previous issue, much of this material is new and should deserve our particular attention. Furthermore, the very nature of the message, and the heat of our troubles in a world at loss, urges for a refreshing of our hope. The rabbi, the theologian, the historian, but also the poet will join their forces and their wisdom to help us discover and understand the profound truth hidden in this old tent. We will taste the heavens in the tent, and thus learn to dream beyond the sand of another city.



Jacques B. Doukhan, D.H.L., Th.D.