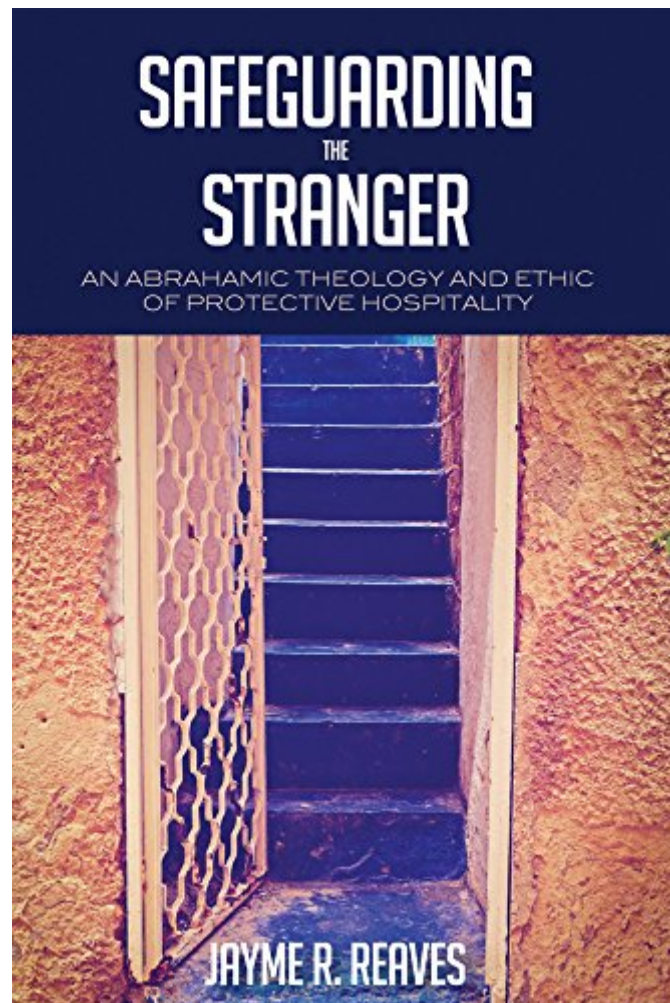




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# Safeguarding The Stranger: An Abrahamic Theology And Ethic Of Protective Hospitality



## Synopsis

What are the resources and teachings in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam that take hospitality--and its call to provide protective hospitality--seriously enough to inform shared action and belief on behalf of the threatened other? This book argues that protective hospitality and its faith-based foundations as seen in the Abrahamic traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam merit greater theological attention and that the practice of protective hospitality in Christianity can be enhanced by better understandings of Judaism's and Islam's practices of hospitality, namely their codes and etiquettes related to honor. *Safeguarding the Stranger* draws especially on two currents in contemporary Christian theologies: (1) a contextual and political theological approach informed by liberation and feminist theologies, and (2) a cooperative and complementary theological approach informed by interreligious, Abrahamic, and hospitable approaches to dialogue. This book is unique in that it seeks to contribute to academic debates within theology and religious dialogue as well as to discussions within the fields of peace studies and conflict resolution on the positive role that religions might play in contexts of conflict. "Safeguarding the Stranger is an immensely important addition to the literature on hospitality, notably protective hospitality as practiced in the Abrahamic faith traditions. The work reflects extraordinarily deep research and years of interfaith and cross-cultural experience, as well as time logged in some of our world's most conflicted regions. The author combines fluency in feminist and liberationist Christian thought with competence in Hebrew Bible and Quranic studies--and more than a bit of continental philosophy as well. A major contribution by an important new voice, both in its substance and in its method. Highly recommended."--David P. Gushee, Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics; Director, Center for Theology & Public Life, Mercer University; Vice President, American Academy of Religion; Columnist, Religion News Service; President-Elect, Society of Christian Ethics

Jayne R. Reaves is a public theologian based in the United Kingdom. Originally from the American South, she has worked in post-conflict Former Yugoslavia and Northern Ireland and focuses on bridging the gap between theology, peacemaking, and reconciliation. She has a M.Div. from Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (Virginia, USA) and an M.Phil. in Reconciliation and Ph.D. in Theology from Trinity College, University of Dublin.

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When Krista Tippett interviewed Michael Longley, one of the Belfast poets of The Troubles, she described his poetry as a quiet insistence on normalcy. Longley's response was that thinking of the ordinary kept people sane; that sanity itself depends on ordinary, banal things. Protective hospitality according to Dr. Reaves is seeking normalcy in ordinary, banal practices of hospitality that unite people in an understanding of the common good based on a shared ethic regardless of theological distinctions that have divided for too long. While erudite, this book is also practical and worthy of congregational study, graduate seminar focus, even a neighborhood book group of people who want to be challenged to think and live differently.

An excellent, in-depth look into the practice of hospitality as protection in the Abrahamic traditions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam), from a scriptural, historical, and contemporary standpoint. Well-written and easy to read, this book is an important work in this subject, and a timely reminder of how we are asked to show hospitality in our world today.

Jayne Reaves knows her stuff!!

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