PREFACE

This book on the relation between religion and morality is a revised version of a book by the same title written in Hebrew and published in 1993 by The Bialik Institute, Jerusalem. The process of translation provides a wonderful opportunity for authors to rethink their ideas, and we made extensive use of it. Though the fundamental argument has remained the same, we have made many changes with regard to specific moves, withdrawing from arguments which now seem to us unsuccessful, omitting unnecessary digressions, and adding clarifications and new arguments where these were needed. We hope that, as a result, the translation is an improvement on the original.

This is the place to thank our translator, Batya Stein, whose excellent command of two languages, understanding of the subject matter, and devotion to the project helped us greatly throughout our work. Batya's suggestions often rose above the narrow concerns of translation and, at times, manifested a better comprehension of the text than that of the authors.

David Heyd read the entire manuscript and made many helpful comments. Parts of the manuscript were also read by Perets Segal, Saul Smilansky, and Noam Zohar. We are grateful to all of them.

We also wish to thank our friend and colleague Aaron Kollender for his crucial help in preparing the manuscript. Computers are friendly and easy, provided you have a human friend to help you out when the machine refuses to cooperate. We had Aaron.

Finally, we are deeply indebted to Robert Ginsberg, whose editorial suggestions and substantive comments helped us turn this into a more readable book.

This book goes to print, sadly, a short time after the passing of Professor Yeshayahu Leibowitz, and we wish to dedicate our book to his memory. Leibowitz's philosophical views and positions on political and social affairs have been a constant challenge to us, as well as to many others in Israel. Our warm feelings toward him do not imply agreement with his views. On the contrary, we disagree with most of his ideas, and especially those bearing on the relation between religion and morality. Nevertheless, our appreciation for his contribution to our intellectual development is deep and, in this small way, we acknowledge our debt to him.

Avi Sagi
Daniel Statman