A Guest Editor’s Note

In the 2010 afterward to Sir Fred Hoyle’s 1957 science fiction classic—The Black Cloud (Penguin Classics), Richard Dawkins identifies the question of relations between “super-intelligence” and divinity as “the founding question of a new discipline of ‘Scientific Theology’” (p. 214).

Scientific theology is well-developed among process philosophers and process theologians instructed by Alfred North Whitehead’s Science and the Modern World (1925), and by Whitehead’s Process and Reality: An Essay in Cosmology (1927-28). Hence, when in January 2012 the editors of the Journal of Cosmology became interested in relating scientific cosmology and astronomy to scientific theology, they recruited two members of the International Advisory Board for the Whiteheadian-Hartshornean journal—Process Studies—to serve as guest editors. In turn, the two guest editors solicited contributions from regular contributors to Process Studies, and from many others, including regular contributors to the Journal of Cosmology. The result is volumes 19 and 20 (the Astro-Theology volumes), perhaps the first collection of essays connecting scientific astronomy and cosmology to scientific natural theology ever published in a modern scientific journal.

- Theodore Walker Jr.