The Jealous Logic—Some Reflections on Syncretism and Some Philosophical Implications
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People have always been inclined *not* to stick with one god alone, *not* to trust one single religion. One possible conclusion is that history is full of syncretism. Syncretism seems to be disturbing. It disturbs the exclusive relationship between God and his people, and it disturbs the idea of logical purity if things are mixed up in an uncontrolled manner. In this paper I discuss the idea that perhaps *logical* arguments against syncretism are based on *jealousy*. In turn, *jealousy* is perhaps an issue of power. When it is argued that life or reality have some organising and ordering structures that we have to follow, perhaps this can be seen as an issue of *our* or *my* view of how life and reality make claims on how structures are made. In the particular case of syncretism, not all forms of syncretism are banned. If mixing is identified as being a mix of different *levels*, as a *historical* phenomenon or simply as taking place “somewhere else”, then syncretism is not a threat. Not logically. Not from a jealous point of view. But even so, some kind of measure is required. Also here some form of judgement is called for. One would perhaps think that ethics plays a vital role regardless what ethical arguments or standpoints that have the most weight. But are ethical arguments *also* based on jealousy and power, like any other argument? And is that a problem?