1.10.21

Dear editor,

I am pleased to submit a proposal to publish my book *Casting Lots, God and Man: From the Bible the End of the Renaissance* with the University of California Press. The book has been published in Hebrew by Bar-Ilan University Press and the Shalom Hartman Institute, and I hope to publish it in English in order to reach a wider audience.

I serve as the director of the Kogod Research Center for Contemporary Jewish Thought and the David Hartman Center for Intellectual Excellence at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. I am also a lecturer of Talmud and Jewish Thought at Shalem College in Jerusalem. I earned my PhD in Jewish Thought at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and this book is an adaptation of my dissertation. My current research focuses on Jewish philosophy and identity across eras and topics, from Second Temple literature, Mishnaic and Talmudic scholarship, medieval Jewish literature, early Zionism, and contemporary Jewish identity. My CV includes a list of my publications in both the academic and popular press.

As you will see detailed in the attached proposal, my book lays out a new conceptual framing of the meanings attached to the act of casting lots—a phenomenon that has spanned human cultures since antiquity. Using this framing, the book examines lots as described in Jewish literature starting from the Bible until the Renaissance and offers a new perspective on this enduring aspect of Jewish culture.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope to further discuss my proposal with you and answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Shraga Bar-On