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Bazyn's "Jesting Angels: God's Lighter Side" (Book Review)

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Jesting Angels: God's Lighter Side,

by Ken Bazyn. Eugene, OR: Resource Publications, 2015. 73 pp. \$13.00.

ISBN 9781498220576

Reviewed by Gary Fitzsimmons, Director of Library Services, Bryan College, Dayton, TN

Despite the title and the introduction, this short book fails to deliver on its promise of treating us to “God’s lighter side.” It is a book of nonsensical images masquerading as poetry, written apparently for the shock value of the comparisons made between the realities alluded to and the mental pictures that the author forces upon them. The art of poetry is lost in a mad rush to see how many incongruent images he can ignite in the reader’s consciousness with as little support for the comparisons as possible. In the introduction (p. xii), Bazyn compared his use of outlandish images to Christ’s use of imagery in His parables, but unlike Jesus’ parables, Bazyn fails to teach anything of substance by his use of such mental pictures. God does have a sense of humor as Bazyn claims (again in the introduction, p. xi), but there is very little funny in what appears here. Aside from the questionable theology in many of his allusions, there is little even distinctly Christian in this book either. In short, the book is not recommended. Bazyn has been a long-time Editorial Director of Religious Book Club, written *The Seven Perennial Sins and Their Offspring*, *Soul-Wrestling: Meditations in Monochrome*, and published articles and photographs in 40 periodicals. He has written a previous poetry collection entitled *Gospel Midrashim: Poems on the Life of Jesus*.

Just War: Authority, Tradition and Practice,

edited by Anthony F. Lang, Jr., Cian O’Driscoll, and John Williams. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2013. 328 pp. \$35.00. ISBN 9781589019966

Reviewed by Lisa Cutforth-Anderson, Learning Resource Coordinator and Old Testament professor, Alberta Bible College, Calgary, AB

This book came into being as a result of an interdisciplinary workshop on the just war tradition sponsored by the US Institute of Peace in the summer of 2010. Its ultimate goal of peace shines through the presenters’ offerings compiled in this volume. The editors offer numerous essays that discuss the Western concept and tradition of just war and proper conduct in warfare. They do not leave their readers, there, though. The conference attendees also question whether these rules can and should apply in the fight against terrorism. Terrorists, as a rule, do not follow the