

‘*al-pānāy* と唯一神教  
—出エジプト記 20章3節—

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**ABSTRACT** Yoshiyuki MUCHIKI, “‘*al-pānāy* and Monotheism in Exodus 20:3.” עַל־פָּנַי in Exodus 20:3 has been rendered in three ways: the first, traditionally, “except me”(JB); the second, literally “before me” (KJ, NIV, NRSV, ESV); the third, adversarially “against me” (NEB). However, none of them adequately reflects the original meaning of ‘*al-pānāya* in Ex 20:3. The first one most likely has roots in ancient translations, especially the LXX, which translates the prepositional phrase as πλὴν ἐμοῦ (“except me”). However it should be noted that this is the only case in which the LXX renders the preposition עַל־פָּנַי as πλὴν among the 207 occurrences of the preposition. The LXX does not use the same translation for the prepositional phrase even in the parallel passage Deut 5:7. The second one, though it appears to be the most literal meaning of the prepositional phrase, has been understood in connection with ancient Israelite cults. Ever since Mowinckel, many critical scholars have considered the “*sitz im Leben*” of the Decalogue to be ancient Israelite cults, even though they lack sufficient evidence. Therefore, the idea behind the translation “before me” is the alleged prohibition against making images of gods other than YHWH at the cultic places where YHWH is worshiped. The third one, first proposed by W. F. Albright on the basis of a few examples in the Old Testament, is that the prepositional phrase expresses a hostile nuance, such as in Deut 21: 16.

Considering the above cases and pursuing the meaning of ‘*al-pānāy* in the Old Testament, I would suggest the following translation of the first commandment: “You shall have no other gods before my face.”

That this commandment presupposed exclusive monotheism is observable not by the usage of each word in the first commandment, but on the context where the first commandment is placed. At first glance only

monolatry is demanded, yet behind the monolatry, there is obviously monotheism. In the world of the ancient Near East, to refuse to worship a god is to negate its divinity.