

Thank you for your interest in the **Institute of Advanced Theology** at Bard College, which was established to foster critical understanding, based in scholarship, that will make true religious pluralism possible. Bard College, a private liberal arts college noted for its progressive traditions and innovation in higher education, has undertaken to support the Institute's residential and academic development.

The Institute is not interested in making general assertions of the necessity for religious tolerance; well-meaning and useful though such imperatives are, they do not address the heart of the challenge of religious diversity. To promote genuine dialogue, people must be enticed by hope in the possibility of sympathetic acceptance of each other's views and the common threads within them. Such an open dialogue needs to be supported by serious reading, learning, and thinking—for neither the mystery itself nor the evidence is easy.

Since its inception in 1996, the Institute's work has focused on how religions influence history, society, one another, and are in turn influenced by them. Institute scholars refine the newest critical research methods to pursue a comparative approach to the study of religion. The Institute's recent scholarship on James, the brother of Jesus, has sought to develop a common language of comparison between early Jewish Christianity and Judaism. The faculty and resident fellows of the Institute are continuing these research comparisons with Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam.

If you would like to financially support the work of the Institute, please complete the membership application and mail it, with your contribution, to the address below.

Thank you.

www.bard.edu/iat  
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*Institute of Advanced Theology at Bard – Membership Application Form 2005*

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THREE CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP ARE AVAILABLE

The membership year runs from January 2005 to January 2006

- Basic Membership**.....\$30.00  
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- Signed copy of the *The Brother of Jesus*  
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 (The deductible portion of your contribution is \$80.00).
- I do not wish to receive either book (tax-deduction is \$100.00)

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Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Please make checks payable to: **IAT at Bard College**  
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 Please bill my  **Visa**  **MasterCard**  **AMEX** (circle one)  
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Please cut out and return this form to:  
**The Institute of Advanced Theology at Bard College**  
 P.O. Box 5000  
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