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Commentary on "Religion as a Framework of the Nomos"

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Commentary by Jack Wolfe
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Katie Vaillancourt does a lot of things in “Religion as a Framework of the Nomos” that I really appreciate. Her style is efficient and mature, focusing on communicating concrete points rather than impressing with big words. Vaillancourt’s diction and syntax are wonderfully diverse; her easy-to-scan sentences rely on strong active verbs, not the passive voice or repetitive “to be” structures. The writer’s commitment to clarity and variety also shows on the macro-level, where her paragraphs are consistent both in themselves and within the context of their neighbors.

I love the forward motion of Vaillancourt’s writing, which rarely restates itself thanks to logical sequencing and smart transitions. Her paper’s conclusion, for example, doesn’t just list off her topic sentences— it makes several points that could only be made after looking at her work as a whole. Likewise, the quotations in “Religion as a Framework of the Nomos” don’t exist to fulfill a “quote quota,” but instead elucidate outside ideas that might be lost in a mere paraphrase. The paper’s solid organization, clear progression of thoughts, and eye for textual detail exhibit a talented author who has great potential for future academic feats of daring.