A theopoetic reflection on Thomas Traherne, Meister Eckhart and Mother Julian of Norwich

by

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Abstract

A theopoetic reflection on Thomas Traherne, Meister Eckhart and Mother Julian of Norwich

This study provides a poet’s readings of the non-dualism of Thomas Traherne, Meister Eckhart and Mother Julian of Norwich. Traherne, Eckhart and Julian are interpreted as theopoets of the body/soul who share what might be described as moderate non-dualism. They also share a concern for unitive spiritual experience, expressed in their attempts to balance an absolute level of truth with a conventional level of truth. Separate chapters on Traherne, Eckhart and Julian focus on their differing - yet commensurate - non-dual registers. On their view, the conditio sine qua non of ‘being human’ is participation in the divine. Two additional chapters link the so-called mysticism of Traherne, Eckhart and Julian with construals of both ‘the Self’ and spiritual awakening, as enunciated by Advaita Vedānta. My own poems are integrated into the text. Many issues explored in the text are contested and aporetical and my own readings may not always be shared by others. Although aware of the usefulness of dualism, and of the subject/object distinction in particular, I seek to provide a countervailing perspective to the general Western over-emphasis on the separateness of the human and the divine. In so doing, I hope to show that Traherne, Eckhart and Julian can be read in consonance and even at times in innovative ways.
**Abbreviations**

BgG (or Gītā): Bhagavad Gītā

Gk: Greek

KJV: King James Version

L: Latin

LT: Julian’s Long Text

MHG: Middle High German

NJB: New Jerusalem Bible

NT: New Testament

NRSV: New Revised Standard Version

REB: Revised English Bible

Skt: Sanskrit

ST: Julian’s Short Text

Up: Upanishad
Contents

Acknowledgements iii

Abstract iv

Abbreviations v

Introduction 1

Chapter One: Thomas Traherne 14
   A devout humanist
   Imagination as a liberating power
   An ‘eternal Correspondence’
   The world as Christ’s body
   A perichoretic cosmos

Chapter Two: Meister Eckhart 89
   Letting-be
   A stripping of self-images
   Divine birth
   ‘Without a why and wherefore’
   Entering the life divine
   One without boundaries

Chapter Three: Mother Julian of Norwich 145
   Divine maternity
   Enfolded by the Infinite
   Popularity
   Three ‘mystics’ as connected presences
Chapter Four: Losing and Finding the Self

Influence of Ramana Maharshi
Charles Taylor and the demise of Western Christian non-duality
Simone Weil and attentiveness
Andrei Rublev and Buddhist ‘emptiness’
Derrida and the faith of the ‘mystics’
Shiva and the Spirit’s transformative power

Chapter Five: Non-dual ‘Awakening’

Awakening to a redefinition of boundaries
A kenotic view of the divine
Raimon Panikkar and pluralism
Parallel ways of relating
‘I am nothing; I am everything’
‘Where our skin stops, our bodies do not stop’

Conclusion

Bibliography