

Ioanna Sahinidou

# Hope for the Suffering Ecosystems of Our Planet

The Contextualization of Christological  
Perichoresis for the Ecological Crisis



PETER LANG  
EDITION

# Contents

Chapter One .....	15
Is there Hope for my City of Athens? .....	15
The Ecological Problem .....	15
My Personal Religious Journey .....	16
An Analysis of Athenian History from an Ecofeminist Perspective .....	19
The Athenian Landscape.....	19
Pre-historic Athens and Attica .....	19
Classic Athenian Democracy: a kind of Male Aristocracy .....	21
The Greek Language: a Tool in the early Christian Church .....	24
The Position of Women in the Developing Christian Church .....	25
A new City is Emerging after the Independence from Turkey .....	26
Post Ottoman Greek Attitudes - The Position of Women in Society .....	27
The Built Athenian Environment after 1900 .....	30
After 1900: Greek Emigrants leave their Homeland .....	31
1923: Greeks from Anatolia, Refugees in their Homeland.....	31
The Birth of a Megacity.....	33
1989 - Influx of Refugees and Immigrants .....	34
The Athenian Landscape in our days.....	36
Fires Degrading the Athenian Ecosystems .....	36
What is the Cause of the Ecological Crisis? .....	37
The Orthodox Church of Greece .....	38
The Greek Evangelical Church.....	40
The Greek Crisis.....	40
Aims and Objectives of the thesis.....	43
Chapter Two .....	47
The Eco-crisis of our Era: Discussed from an Ecofeminist Perspective .....	47
Introduction .....	47
Introduction into Ecofeminist Perspective .....	53
Language.....	53
Dualistic-Exclusive Languages .....	54
Apophatic Theology .....	58
Analogical Theology.....	59

Metaphorical Theology.....	59
Contextual Theology.....	60
Worldviews .....	61
The Dualistic Worldview.....	61
The Mechanistic Worldview.....	63
Towards a Holistic Worldview.....	64
Ecofeminism-Ecofeminist Theologies.....	67
Ecology .....	70
Ecological Theology .....	71
Ecofeminist Creation-Theology.....	73
Ecofeminist Hermeneutics .....	74
Summary, links with the next chapter.....	75
Chapter Three.....	77
Ecofeminist Theologies Challenging Dualisms.....	77
Dualisms ‘within’ the Human Person: Soul-Body.....	78
Soul: Ψυχή in the Greek World .....	78
Ψυχή in the Philosophy of Plato.....	79
Soul ψυχή in the Bible.....	80
Ψυχή during the Patristic Era.....	81
Ψυχή in Modern Sciences.....	83
Ecofeminist Reflections on ψυχή.....	83
Dualisms between Human Beings .....	85
Liberation Theologies.....	85
Gender as a Hermeneutical Tool to Overcome Dualisms.....	86
The Dualism between Humanity and Nature.....	88
My partners in dialogue .....	90
Rosemary Radford Ruether .....	90
Sallie McFague .....	93
Anne Primavesi.....	94
Ivone Gebara.....	95
Mary Grey.....	97
Links with the next chapter.....	99
Chapter Four .....	101
Trinitarian Perichoresis .....	101
Introduction.....	101
A Brief History of Trinitarian Perichoresis .....	101

The Definition of Perichoresis .....	102
Ancient Greek Writers .....	103
Eastern Church Fathers.....	106
Perichoresis as a Defence against Heresies.....	113
Perichoresis in East and West.....	114
The Use of Perichoresis by Modern Theologians .....	114
On the Use of Perichoresis by Modern Theologians .....	125
Challenging the Social Doctrine of the Trinity.....	125
Perichoresis: Analogia Relationis devoid of Analogia Entis? .....	127
What Kind of Language is Trinitarian Language? .....	128
Does ‘Communion’ Belong to the Level of ‘Substance’? .....	131
Summary Conclusion and Links with the Next Chapter.....	133
Chapter Five.....	135
Christological Perichoresis .....	135
Links between Trinitarian and Christological Perichoresis .....	135
Christ as Divine and Human .....	139
Christological Perichoresis .....	142
Cosmic Christological Perichoresis .....	146
More meanings of Perichoresis.....	148
Patristic Ideas related to Christological Perichoresis.....	150
Λόγος, λόγοι .....	150
Christ: Οίκος of the Cosmos-Panentheism .....	152
Kenosis .....	154
Creation out of ‘no thing’ God being ‘no thing’ .....	155
The Word made Flesh .....	161
Summary, Conclusions, Links with the Next Chapter .....	162
Chapter Six.....	165
Christological Perichoresis Builds an Ecofeminist Worldview .....	165
New Anthropologies, New Cosmologies.....	165
Searching for a Biblical Perichoretic Worldview.....	167
Traditional Christologies.....	170
Feminist and Ecofeminist Christologies.....	170
Platonic Dualisms Influence the Christian Cosmic Vision .....	176
Christological Perichoresis Builds up an Ecofeminist Worldview.....	179
Christological, Ecofeminist Perichoresis Dissolves the Dualism between Λογικά–Αλογα όντα, Rational-Irrational beings.....	181

Reflections on Ecofeminist Dualisms .....	186
Earth Bible Series .....	186
Which Cosmology, which Worldview? .....	187
Reflections on the Work of my Partners in Dialogue.....	188
Sallie McFague .....	188
Anne Primavesi.....	195
Gebara.....	206
Conclusions and Links with the Next Chapter.....	209
Chapter Seven.....	213
Conclusions for an Ecofeminist, Perichoretic Praxis in Athens .....	213
Contextualization as Christological Perichoresis.....	213
Links with the Previous Chapters .....	213
A Perichoretic Worldview .....	215
The Perichoretic Church .....	216
What Hope for Athens and its Ecosystems? .....	221
Μετάνοια-Conversion.....	221
Overconsumption.....	223
Corruption.....	225
Human Perichoresis as Contextualization.....	225
Non Beings-Non Places.....	225
The Place of Women in the Athenian Context.....	227
Migrants.....	230
Forests and Forest Fires in Athens.....	231
Perichoretic Communities.....	234
Gift Economy.....	234
Sacred Creation.....	235
A Different Idea of time.....	236
Perichoretic Ethics .....	237
Are Technological Solutions enough? .....	238
An Ecofeminist, Perichoretic Praxis in Athens.....	239
Bibliography .....	243
The Bible.....	243
English Books .....	243
Greek Books.....	250
Eastern Church Fathers .....	252
Ancient Greek Writers .....	254
Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Commentaries .....	255

Articles etc .....	257
Book Reviews .....	258
Newspapers .....	260
Websites .....	261