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

by

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A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy to the School of Philosophy of the University of Tasmania
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Acknowledgements

Professor Wayne Hudson’s multifarious assistance has been indispensable; I am also indebted to Dr. Lucy Tatman and to Dr. Anna Alomes for vital criticisms and suggestions. Thanks is also extended to Dr. Antony Bellette for sharing his expertise on Traherne and for allowing unrestrained access to a private collection of manuscripts and books.
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
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Meister Eckhart, Mother Julian of Norwich and Thomas Traherne are interpreted as 'theopoets' of the body/soul who share a moderate non-dualism. Their work is brought within the ambit The words 'me,' 'mine,' 'you,' 'yours,' can mislead us into feeling separate from other people. This book is an exhilarating contribution to the spirituality of non-duality or non-separation. Meister Eckhart, Mother Julian of Norwich and Thomas Traherne are interpreted as 'theopoets' of the body/soul who share a moderate non-dualism. Their work is brought.

Mother Julian of Norwich, Norwich, England. 475 likes. Mother Julian of Norwich 1342-1430. Anchoress and Christian Mystic. All shall be well, and all... Margery Kempe, from Lynn, and Julian of Norwich could not have been more unlike each other. Margery was a mother of 14 children, an extreme extrovert, a frequent attendee in court for alleged misdemeanours, and an inveterate traveler. A TWO-DAY RETREAT Norfolk was home to two world-class women in the 14th century. Margery Kempe, from Lynn, and Julian of Norwich could not have been more unlike each other. Margery was a mother of 14 children, an extreme extrovert, a frequent attendee in court for alleged misdemeanours, and an inveterate traveler. Mother Julian of Norwich. Julian (or Juliana) of Norwich (1343 – after 1416), also known as Dame Julian or Mother Julian, was an English anchorite of the Middle Ages. She wrote the earliest surviving book in the English language written by a woman, Revelations of Divine Love. She lived practically her whole life in the English city of Norwich, an important centre for commerce that also had a vibrant religious life. During her lifetime, the city suffered the devastating effects of the Black Death of 1348â€“50; the Peasants...