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

by

James Arthur Charlton

BA (University of Tasmania)

B. Soc. Admin. (Flinders University of South Australia)

MA (University of Cambridge)

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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

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