EARLY CHURCH UNDERSTANDINGS OF JESUS AS THE FEMALE DIVINE

Central to debates about Jesus is the issue of whether he uniquely embodies the divine. While this discussion continues unabated, both those who affirm, and those who dismiss, Jesus’ divinity regularly eclipse the reality that in many of the earliest strands of the Christian tradition when Jesus’ divinity is proclaimed, Jesus is imaged as the female divine.

Sally Douglas investigates these early texts and reveals the motivations for imaging Jesus as Woman Wisdom and the complex reasons that this began to be suppressed in the second and third centuries. The work concludes with an examination of the powerful implications of re-engaging with the ancient proclamation of Jesus-Woman Wisdom in contemporary context.

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