

BOOK REVIEW

Laurel Kearns and Catherine Keller eds., *Ecospirit: Religions and Philosophies for the Earth*, New York: Fordham University Press, 2007.



This book uses a fresh, transdisciplinary approach to probe the possibility of a green shift radical enough to permeate the ancient roots of our sensibility and the social sources of our practice. It explores our sense of how to proceed in the face of an ecological crisis that demands fresh thinking and acting.

We hope - even as we doubt - that the environmental crisis can be controlled. Public awareness of our species' self-destructiveness as material beings in a material world is growing, but so is the destructiveness. The practical interventions needed for saving and restoring the earth will require a collective shift of such magnitude as to take on a spiritual and religious intensity. This transformation has, in part, already begun. Traditions of ecological theology and ecologically aware religious practice have been preparing the way for decades. Yet these traditions still remain marginal to society, academy and church.

From new language for imagining the earth as a living ground to current constructions of nature in theology, science, and philosophy; from the questioning of postmodern thought by environmentalists to a garden of green doctrines, rituals, and liturgies for contemporary religion; these original essays explore and expand our sense of how to proceed in the face of an ecological crisis that demands new thinking and acting. In the midst of planetary crisis, they activate imagination, humour, ritual, and hope.

With sections entitled *Ecogrounds*, *Econatures*, *Ecoconstructions*, *Eocdoctrines*, *Ecospaces* and *Ecohopes*, this book explores current concerns: biodiversity, tree felling, the treatment of animals, global warming and earth-sensitive liturgical practices. It features contributions from Anne Primavesi, Kate Rigby, Mary Evelyn Tucker, Rosemary Radford Reuther and a host of other leading scholars in the fields of ecology, religion and philosophy.

This book (645 pages) includes a wide variety of material, and offers something for readers from multiple areas of interest. It is a book that invites both individual consideration and group discussion.