



Creatures of the Same God: Explorations in Animal Theology

By Andrew Linzey

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"I don't know why you're spending all your time on this. They're only animals—for heaven's sake!" That was the reaction of one of Andrew Linzey's fellow students at King's College, London, when he was studying theology in the 1970s. Since then, the now Rev. Dr. Andrew Linzey has been arguing that animals aren't *only* anything, but rather that they matter to God, and should do so to us.

In this collection of essays, Linzey counters with his customary wit, erudition, and insight, some contemporary (and perhaps surprising) challenges to animal rights—from ecotheologians, the Church, and politicians. He contends that far from the sometimes shallow judgments of those who think animals unworthy of theological consideration, the Christian tradition has a wellspring of sources and resources available to taking animals seriously. Instead of being marginal to the Christian experience, Linzey concludes, animals can take their rightful place alongside human beings as creatures of the same God.

There is a long forgotten spiritual tradition that two children, both named Jesus, were born in Bethlehem to two sets of parents named Joseph and Mary. This tradition is supported by the different accounts of the nativity and life of Jesus Christ in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Although the Church chose to ignore this tradition, something of it survived in early Christian art and symbolism. The full tradition was preserved only in the literature of esoteric sects such as Gnosticism, which remained outside the official teachings of institutionalized Christianity.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

The **Rev. Dr. Andrew Linzey** has written extensively on the issue of animals and Christianity in nearly 200 articles and in such classic works as *Christianity and the Rights of Animals and Animal Theology*. He has lectured at many universities in the both the U.K. and U.S., and is the founder of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics. In 2001, he was awarded a doctorate of divinity by the Archbishop of Canterbury for his "unique and massive pioneering work in the area of the theology of creation with particular reference to the rights and welfare of God's sentient creatures."

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