GANDHI, ECOLOGY & WORLD RELIGIONS by Adela DiUbaldo Torchia Lambert Academic Publishing 2013

More information including purchase from Dr. Adela Torchia, atorchia@telus.net

Book Summary from the Back Cover:

This book deals with a Gandhian ethics of economics which helps us to reengage the religion and ecology debate, and to re-envision ecology's more-with-less philosophy as an invitation to liberation rather than deprivation. Many world religions see creation and nature as sacred, and encourage a responsible rather than wasteful approach to the material world. While traditional asceticism has often been seen as life-negating, a Gandhian inspired neo-asceticism goes beyond kenosis towards a renewed appreciation of the beauty and joy of a life of less consumption, and greater compassion for all living beings. Spiritual masters have often taught the dangers of materialism, and such dangers have taken on new meaning in a 21st century ecological context. Last, but not least, this book recognizes the new paths towards better interreligious dialogue that have opened up as a result of a common concern for the ecological well-being of the earth.

FOREWORD by Klaus K. Klostermaier p.3

INTRODUCTION p.4 Author's Notes & Acknowledgements p.6

PART ONE: RELIGION & ECOLOGY: RECONNECTING SPIRIT & LIFE p.7

- Ch.1: East and West in the Religion-Ecology Debate p.11
 - Elegant Frugality p.16
 - Greed and Well-being p.21
 - "Buddhist" Economics p.26

Ch.2: From Consciousness to Conscience: The Role of the Soul in Ecological Concern p.31

- Self-Preoccupation and Self-Realization p.34
- To Love the Neighbour as Oneself p.36
- From Egoism to Altruism p.40
- Ch.3: Nature and the Sacred: From Mysticism to Responsibility p.48
 - Nature or Cosmic Mysticism p.49
 - Responsibility as Responding to the Divine p.64
- Ch.4: Neo-Asceticism as Religion's Gift to Ecology p.75
 - Asceticism as World-Negating p.76

- Outward and Inner Asceticism p.78
- Aversion to Asceticism p.82

PART TWO: GANDHI'S *KHADI* SPIRIT AS THE SOUL OF ECOLOGY p.96

- Ch.5: Gandhian Economics and the Simplification of Life p.99
 - Gandhi as Ecological Model p.104
 - Homespun Solutions and Soft Technologies p.112
 - Voluntary Simplicity and Gandhian Asceticism p.118
- Ch.6: Gandhian Virtues, Duties & Sadhana: Seeking Wholeness p.130
 - The Yamas as Gandhian Guideposts to Duty and Ecology p.133
 - Charkha as sacrament: Soft Technology vs. Industrial Efficiency 144
 - Ethics, Industrial Society and Compassion p.152
- Ch.7: Gandhi's Khadi Spirit and Ecofeminist Concerns p.158
 - Gandhi as Feminist p.159
 - Woman as Incarnation of Ahimsa p.169
 - Ecofeminism and Asceticism p.179

PART THREE: OIKOUMENIKOS: ECOLOGY IN INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE p.188

- Ch.8: Ecology as Cosmic Religion p.191
 - The Assisi Declarations p.195
 - Heritage of World-Consciousness p.198
- Ch.9: Vestigia Dei: Surprised by the Sacred p.209
 - Heschel's Pious Person p.210
 - The Immanence of God in the Imminent Crisis p.217

CONCLUSION p.224

Bibliography p.226 - 234