

F-23. Religious perspectives on ecology

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Religion and ecology are closely interrelated. Developments since the Enlightenment and the Scientific and Industrial Revolution have taken us, and are taking us further into a mire of ecological crises. Some scholars have suggested that anthropocentric religious doctrines and related creation myths which legitimate human domination over the universe are largely to blame. In contrast, other religious doctrines and tribal faiths have nurtured eco-friendly world views and practices.

Some scholars trace the roots of the problem back to the Enlightenment and the Scientific and Industrial Revolutions and beyond to the Greco-Roman tradition and Greek philosophy. It has also been argued that the marginalisation of women has aggravated the problem.

Advances in science and technology alone cannot resolve the crises. We need to critically examine religious scriptures, social and cultural norms, traditions and practices in the light of our regained awareness of our environment and understanding of ecology and to reorient religious doctrines and social and cultural values to achieve greater harmony with nature.