

WOMEN FROM THE MARGINS

An Orbis Series Highlighting Women's Theological Voices

Women from the Margins introduces a series of books that present women's theological voices from around the world. As has long been recognized, women have shaped and continue to shape theology in distinctive ways that recognize both the particular challenges and the particular gifts that women bring to the world of theology and to ministry within the church. Their theological voices reflect the culture in which they live and the religious practices that permeate their lives.

Also in the Series:

Grant Me Justice! HIV/AIDS & Gender Readings of the Bible, Musa W. Dube and Musimbi Kanyoro, editors

Korean Women and God, Choi Hee An

Ecofeminist Theology from Latin America, Judith Ress

African Women, Religion, and Health: Essays in Honor of Mercy Amba Ewudziwa Oduyoye, Isabel Apawo Phiri and Sarojini Nadar, editors

The Jesus of Asian Women

Muriel Orevillo-Montenegro

ORBIS  BOOKS
Maryknoll, New York 10545

Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Maryknoll and Orbis Books, please visit our website at www.maryknoll.org.

Copyright © 2006 by Muriel Orevillo-Montenegro.

Published by Orbis Books, Maryknoll, New York 10545-0308.

Manufactured in the United States of America.

Manuscript editing and typesetting by Joan Weber Laflamme.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to: Orbis Books, P.O. Box 308, Maryknoll, New York 10545-0308.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Orevillo-Montenegro, Muriel.

The Jesus of Asian women / Muriel Orevillo-Montenegro.

p. cm. — (Women from the margins series)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-57075-533-0 (pbk.)

ISBN-10: 1-57075-533-7

1. Christianity—Asia. 2. Jesus Christ—Person and offices. 3.

Christian women—Religious life—Asia. I. Title. II. Series.

BR1065.O74 2006

232.082'095—dc22

2006017205

Contents

Acknowledgments xi

Prologue:

“And There Was No Room in the Inn” (Luke 2:7b) 1

- The Historical Roots of the Social Cancer 2
- Surviving in the Midst of Poverty and Discrimination 4
- Meeting Jesus in the Land of Spirits, Gods, Goddesses,
and Tears 7

1 Looking at Jesus through Asian Eyes 9

- Asia—Land of the Spirits, Gods, and Goddesses 9
- The Colonial Jesus: A Stranger to Asian Culture 10
- The Oppressive Elements of Culture and Religion 15
- The Liberating Dimensions of Religion and Culture 17
- The Legacy of Colonialism in Asia 19
- Indigenization/Inculturation: Responses to the Challenges
of Rising Nationalism 21
- Indian Experiences of Indigenization/Inculturation 23
- Reinscribing Adaptation as an Approach to Religio-cultural
Plurality 28
- The Tragedy of Poverty: A Continuing Legacy
of Neocolonialism 30
- Contextualization: Toward a Relevant Christology 31
- Christology and Asian Religions: Toward an Eye-to-Eye
Encounter 41
- The Importance of Christology in Asia 45

2 Do Indian Women Find Jesus in the Ganges? 52

- Indian Women’s Early Christological Formulations 54
- The Impact of Women’s Situation in Indian Women’s
Christologies 57

| | |
|---|------------|
| Making Connections: Jesus' Blood and Women's Menstruation | 70 |
| Christology and the Liberating Image of Shakti for Indian Women | 76 |
| 3 Korean Women | |
| <i>Meeting Jesus at the Foot of the Salt Mountain</i> | 83 |
| The Comfort Women: Breaking Their Silence and Naming Their Pain | 84 |
| The Iron Grip of Patriarchal Religion and Culture | 86 |
| Korean Women under the Claws of the Tiger | 88 |
| The Importance of Stories in Korean Women's Theologies | 92 |
| Emerging Christologies of Korean Women | 93 |
| The Challenge of Reclaiming the Ethos of Shamanism in Christology | 102 |
| Jesus the Mother, the Symbolic Woman Messiah, and Wisdom Incarnate | 104 |
| Owning Their Stories, Reimagining Jesus the Christ | 112 |
| 4 Walking with Jesus in the Philippines | |
| <i>Singing and Dancing amid Struggle</i> | 114 |
| The Brown Soil That Nourished the Filipino Struggle | 114 |
| Making Sense of God-Talk or Christ-Talk in a Troubled Land | 122 |
| The <i>Pasyon</i> , the <i>Lakbayan</i> , and Filipino Women's Struggle for Survival | 125 |
| Jesus—Fully Liberated Human Being and Liberator | 139 |
| Some Issues on Methodology | 146 |
| Feminist Images of Christ | 150 |
| The Walk with Jesus Goes On—The Journey to Reimage the Christ Must Continue | 156 |
| 5 Gazing at the Postcolonial Jesus | |
| <i>The Multiple Identity of Christ in Hong Kong</i> | 158 |
| Demolishing the Boundary between East and West | 158 |
| Finding the Meaning of Jesus in the Postcolonial World | 162 |
| Postcolonial Critique of Asian Feminist Theology | 168 |
| The Impact of Context on Christology | 175 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| Exploring Wisdom Christology, Finding an Epiphany of God | 177 |
| Women's Suffering and the Language of the Erotic | 183 |
| Claiming a Different Space for Creative Christologies | 191 |
| Epilogue: | |
| Who Is This Jesus Who Comes to My House? | 193 |
| Asian Women's Jesus, the Asian Christ | 194 |
| Encountering and Reimagining Christ | 196 |
| What Is the Future Task for Asian Women's Christology? | 198 |
| Notes | 201 |
| Bibliography | 241 |
| Index | 265 |