Gender and the Fate of Julian's Short Text

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Abstract

Gender and the Fate of Julian's Short Text Most studies of Julian of Norwich's Showings juxtapose her Short and Long texts, with a marked lack of enthusiasm for the Short Text in contrast to its longer, revised form thought to be textually and theologically superior. This essay asks what is at stake in the rigorous defense of Julian's Long Text and argues that the issue of gender is central both to its revisions and to its favorable reception. The most noted revision related to gender in the Long Text is the addition of its maternal Jesus, characterized as redemptive of femininity. Concurrently, many scholars remark on the removal of references to women and Julian's sexual identity—changes troubling for an author thought of as a proto-feminist, but either minimized as irrelevant or rationalized as integral to Julian’s expanded theology, thus rendering its diminished female presence proof of the Long Text's superiority. While discussions tend to address one or two revisions related to gender, this study presents a comprehensive interrogation, ultimately suggesting that our preference for the Long Text (and disregard for the Short) has been shaped by our desire to promote Julian as a woman ahead of her time, but paradoxically perpetuates the very gender hierarchy and biases that likely compelled Julian's revisions and that we wish for her Showings to challenge.

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Julian Ainsworth (, Jurian Einzuwāsu?), also called Julian Ichigi (, Ichigi Jurian?), is the current head of the Ainsworth family and the central antagonist of Fate/kaleid liner PRISMA☆ILLYA. He is often clad in the Conceptual Replacement of Darius Ainsworth, the first head of the family. Due to the impending death of the World, Julian searched out Mystic Codes, magical implements, and vessels from around the world to replace Noble Phantasms and the Holy Grail. Unsuccessful over The Fate of Gender doesn't pronounce gender dead
or make any other pronouncements ("Does that suggest that what we are now witnessing in the gender arena is the first wave of massive transexualisation of humanity?" asks Browning. "Hardly.") The Fate of Gender emerges as a fascinating (and yes, complicated) book, in which the vast majority of readers could be assured of learning something. The Fate of Gender is published by Bloomsbury (£20). Click here to order a copy for £16.40. Topics: Julian of Norwich. The Short Text of the "Showings". Genre: Julian's Book of Showings is a spiritual autobiography which she revised once and reissued in the "Long Text." Characters: Julian's book focuses almost exclusively upon her consciousness and the visions which appear to it. Because she was an anchoress, a woman who retreated to a life of spiritual contemplation in a tiny room attached to the outer wall of the Church of St. Julian, she had almost no contact with any member of the outside world, apparently for most of her adult life. Could this difference have to do with the witness's gender? 6) Still pursuing the meaning of the "hazel-nut" vision, Julian says God showed her the "three nothings" which are the core of contemplative pursuit of wisdom.