

**BLESSED**  
**in the**  
**DIVINE IMAGE**

**Affirming Equality**  
**in Genesis 1 & 2**

# CHURCH AND PEACE

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**Dr K. Renato Lings**

[renatoli@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:renatoli@hotmail.co.uk)

2013

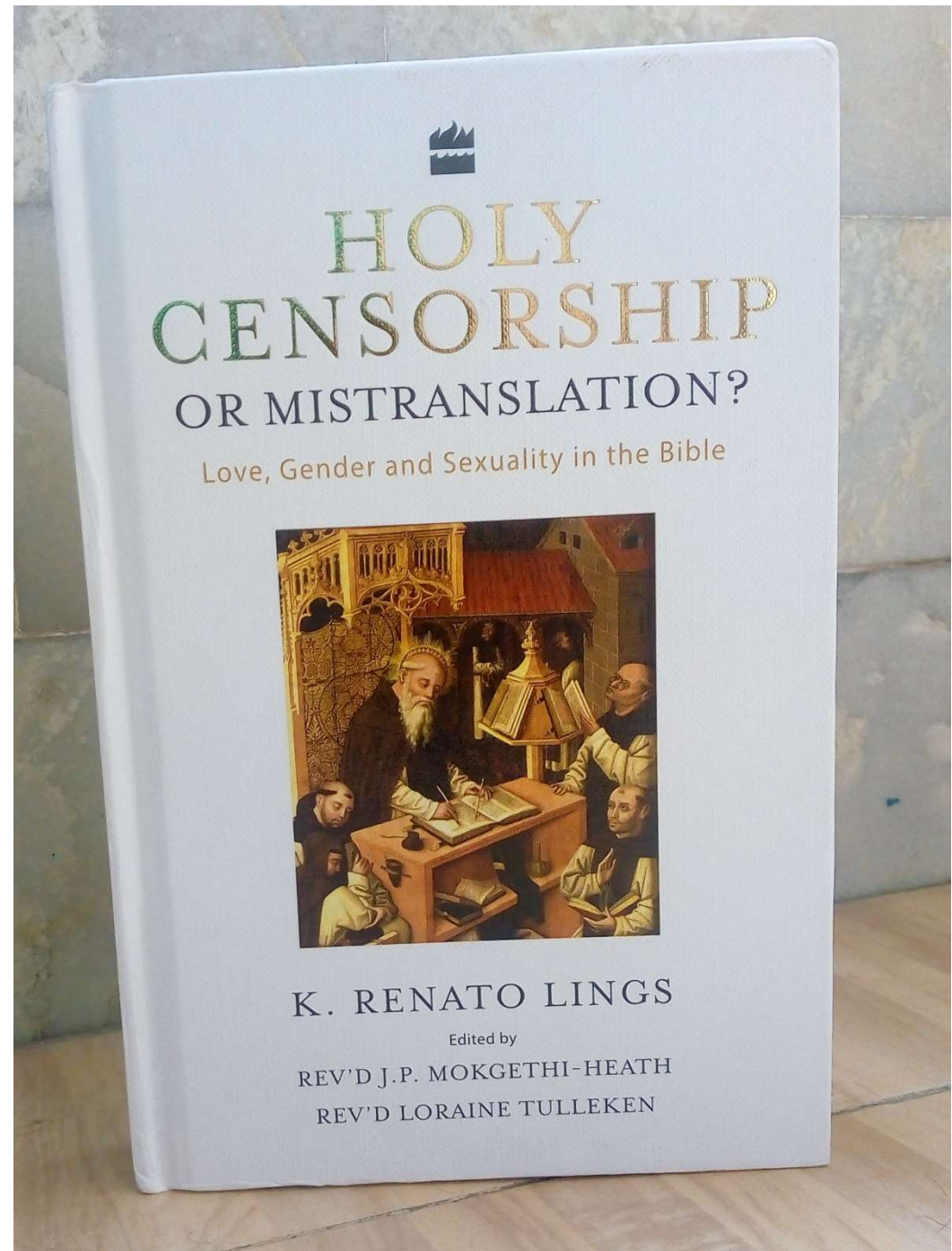
# LOVE LOST IN TRANSLATION

*Homosexuality and the Bible*



K. Renato Lings

2021



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**1**

# **INTRODUCTION**

# AT THE START, GOD CREATED



LOCATION

**HEBREW (OLD)  
TESTAMENT**



# Genesis 1 & 2

AND GOD CREATED

**the *adam***

- **In God's image**
- **Male and female**

**2**

**CHRISTIANITY  
AND CREATION**

# Christian view of 'Adam'



# Woman created from Adam's rib



# GENESIS 2

Christian tradition:  
Woman = 'helper'.

# ♂ MALE FOCUS ♂ OF CHRISTIANITY

- ◆ Male Creator
- ◆ Male human being
- ◆ Woman created from man's rib
- ◆ Woman is man's helper/servant
- ◆ Man is king ♂

# CHRISTIAN MISOGYNY

- ◆ Paul, 1 Cor 11:9 (1st cent. CE)  
'Woman created for the sake of man'
- ◆ Clement of Alexandria
- ◆ John Chrysostom
- ◆ Augustine of Hippo
- ◆ Thomas Aquinas



**3**

**LITERARY  
ANALYSIS**

# EARLY HEBREW TEXT



# KEY WORDS

**ELOHĪM** = God

**RUACH** = spirit, breath, wind

# KEY WORD

**ELOHĪM**

**gods** (*plural*)

**EL**

**god** (*singular*)

**Gender**

**Masculine**

Hebrew sentence

**ELOHĪM BARAA**

**ELOHĪM** Gods (plural)

**BARAA** He created (singular)

Translating

ELOHĪM BARAA

**'GOD CREATED'**

# HEBREW TEXT

**Literary and grammatical**

**T·E·N·S·I·O·N**

- plural subject
- singular verb

**4**

**MYTHOLOGY**



# ANCIENT MYTHOLOGIES

**Gods and goddesses**  
**in different**  
**shapes and sizes**

# Two faces of Janus



# Three faces of Hekate



**Ancient world**

**DIVINE**

**DiVeRsItY**

**5**

**THE DIVINE**

**IMAGE**

# KEY WORD

**RUACH** spirit, breath,  
wind

**Gender** Feminine

**Let US make an ADAM  
after OUR likeness**

Christian interpretations:

‘The Holy Trinity’

‘The heavenly hosts’

ELOHĪM the Creator:

Let **US** make an **ADAM**  
after **OUR** likeness



**US & OUR**

In the Hebrew text:

**ELOHĪM &  
the RUACH**

# GENESIS 1:27

**And God(s) created the  
ADAM in his image**

**Created it**

**in the image of God(s)**

**Male and female**

**he created them.**

# **THE CREATOR IS**

- **singular and plural**
- **masculine and feminine**
- **beyond human categories**

**6**

**THE GROUNDLING**

# THE FIRST ADAM

**ADAMAH**

ground  
dust

**ADAM**

groundling  
dustling

# THE GROUNDLING

- **Both genders**  
male and female.
- **Singular and plural**  
'it' and 'them'.

# THE GROUNDLING



**7**

**A RESCUER**



## GENESIS 2

It is not good for  
the groundling to be alone.

I will give it an

◀ **EZER** beside it.

**<EZER**

Not 'helper' (secondary)

but

**DEFENDER, PROTECTOR,  
LIBERATOR, RESCUER**

## < EZER

defender, protector, liberator, rescuer

- **powerful**
- **applies to the God of Israel**
- **woman is PRIMARY,  
not secondary**

**8**

**THE MISSING RIB**

# ADAM'S 'RIB'



# GENESIS 2

**No Hebrew word for**

**'RIB'**

# KEY WORD

**TSELA**◀ = side

## GENESIS 2

The Eternal God(s)  
made a swoon fall  
upon **the groundling.**  
**It** slept.



## GENESIS 2

He took one of its **sides**...  
and the Eternal God(s)  
built **the side**...  
into a woman.

**GENESIS 2**

**BANAH**

*build, construct.*

# GENESIS 2

Like an architect,  
God **BUILT** a woman.  
'The crown of creation'.

# THE GROUNDLING

- **Male side**
- **Female side**
- The two sides  
are separated

## GENESIS 2:23

Man and woman,  
same material:

*This is **flesh of my flesh**  
**and bone of my bones.***

9

**CREATIVITY**

# THE FIRST ADAM

- **singular**
- **male & female**
- **intersex**

Genesis 1:28

**ORIGINAL BLESSING**

**'Be fruitful  
and multiply'.**



'Be fruitful and multiply'

## **CHRISTIAN TRADITION**

**Two persons:**  
**man and woman**

**Command:**  
**produce many babies.**

**BLESSING**  
versus  
**COMMANDMENT**

- **blessing** = gift
- **command** = order

**'Be fruitful and multiply'**

History of Christianity:

**FRUITFUL FIGURES**

with no babies.

# HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY

## **FRUITFUL PERSONS:**

- Prophets
- Jesus of Nazareth
- Apostles and disciples
- Paul of Tarsus

'Be fruitful and multiply'

Jesus in the  
gospel of Matthew:

**'USE YOUR TALENTS'**

# HUMANITY

- The Creator's

## IMAGE

- Blessed with

## CREATIVITY

**10**

**CONCLUSIONS**

# 1

- The divine image is
- **singular and plural**
  - **male and female.**



# 2

## GOD'S IMAGE INCLUDES

- **Man**
- **Woman**
- **Intersex persons**
- **LGBT people**
- **Every human being**

3

All human beings  
are born  
**EQUAL**

4

Woman is not  
a 'helper' but  
**a defender**  
**and protector.**

5

The groundling's

**'RIB' = SIDE**

6

'Be fruitful and multiply'

**A BLESSING**

**NOT A COMMAND**

# 7

## THE CREATOR'S IMAGE

**Creativity  
is part of  
human DNA.**

8

GENESIS 1 & 2

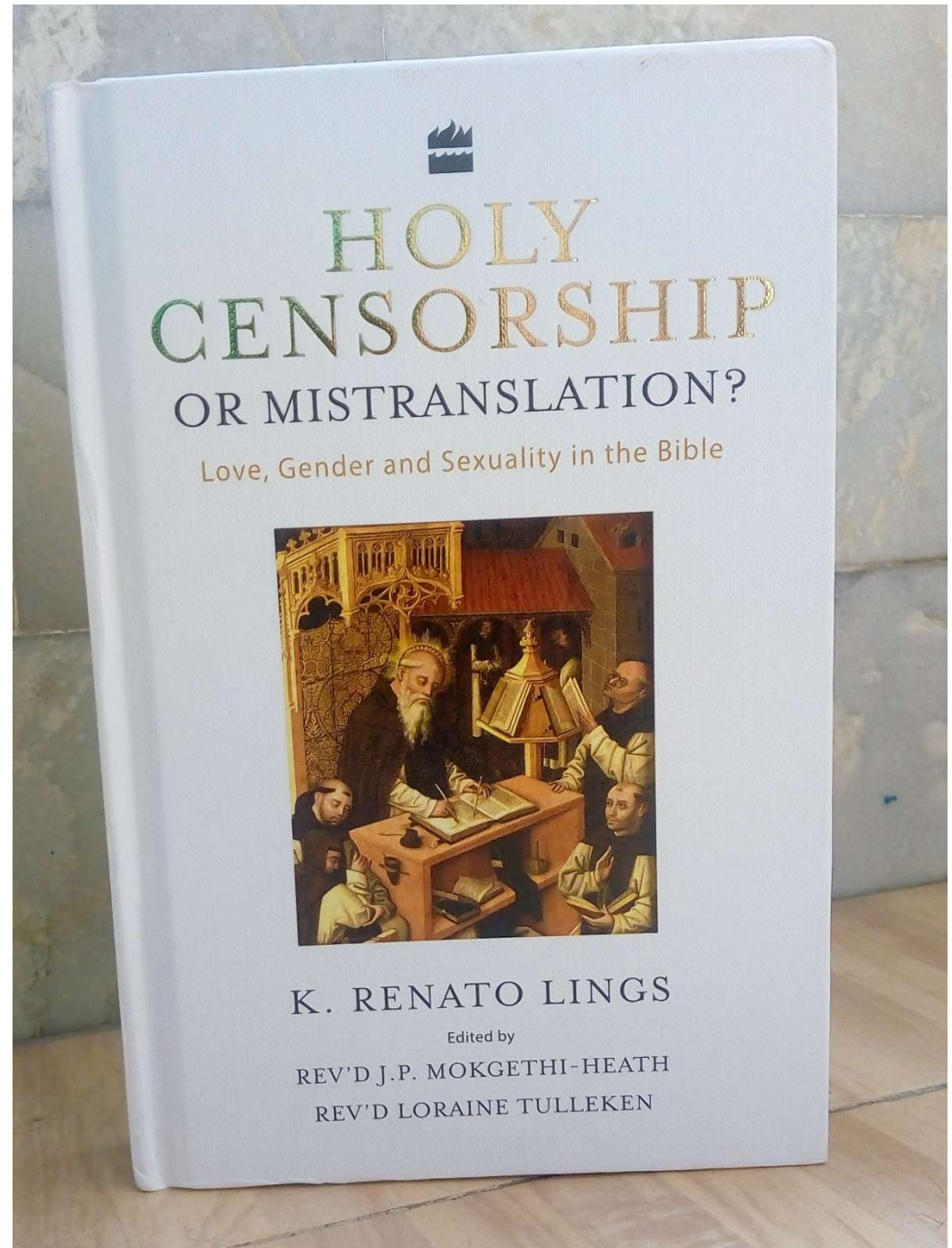
Human beings  
are born to

**CREATE**

**MORE  
DETAILS**

**2021**

**Harper  
Collins**





**T H E E N D**

**BLESSED IN THE  
DIVINE IMAGE**

**Affirming Equality  
in Genesis 1 & 2**