

AL/2085

FROM JOHN CARL FLUGEL.
~~PRIMROSE HILL 1010.~~

11 ALBERT ROAD
REGENT'S PARK

N.W. 1.

Culliver 4090

Jan 30. 1931

Dear Mr Robert,

I have read your paper on 'Women in the Priesthood' with great interest & I believe that the reasons you put forward for the objection to this idea are substantially correct. Matters like these, which are so often taken for granted, are well worth investigation, & I am glad that you are proposing to bring these less obvious considerations to the notice of those concerned - though I don't expect that your communication will meet with a very hearty reception.

In the last page or so you have rather abandoned the analytic attitude & become a little propagandist - but doubtless this is in view of the purpose of the whole discussion. It is for the same reason

perhaps that you do not go more into the general question of the Church's hostility to women. The whole Christian ^{& Hebrew} attitude is obviously permeated with the idea of woman as the cause of sin ("the woman tempted me"), male guilt being displaced on to her.

It would be interesting to compare the Christian, Hebrew & Mahomedan religions (all intensely male, except that the worship of the mother has crept back somewhat into Roman Catholicism) with others in which there have been female divinities & priestesses. But this would be a big business & which is clearly connected with the patriarchal v. matriarchal attitudes in society.

The possibility of women priests has probably only just become apparent, because the patria potestas has diminished so much in recent years.

Yours sincerely,

JC Flugel

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