

Cover: Picture by Han Sook In

The Separation of Rangi and Papa

Back in the mists of time Rangi, the Sky-father and Papa, the Earth-mother, lay heavily together. All was darkness and their sons, who were the gods, decided that they wanted light. Tangaroa, the god of the sea, Rongo, the god of cultivated food, and Haumia, the god of wild foods, all tried to separate their parents but failed. Tu, the god of war, almost succeeded, but finally it was Tane, the god of the forests, who was able to force them apart by pushing Rangi upwards with his feet. Only Tawhiri, the god of wind and storms, had enjoyed the darkness and, even today, he lives with his father and in his anger at the separation he sometimes punishes his brothers.

— A Creation account from
the Maori people of
Aotearoa

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Contents

Editorial	
<i>Sun Ai Park (Korean)</i>	3
Report of Indonesian Theologically Trained Women's Consultation <i>Sukabumi, 24-29 June 1983</i>	8
New Zealand Women's Conference Press Release: Women's Space – Spirituality – Ministry	13
Psalm 139	
<i>Anna Holmes (New Zealand)</i>	14
Power is a Dirty Word?	
<i>Lynne Wall (New Zealand)</i>	18
Report of Korean Women's Conference: Second Consultation for the establishment of feminist theology in Asia	19
General Comments and Evaluation	
<i>Rev. Chung Sook Ja (Korea)</i>	20
A letter from Asian Women theologians North East U.S.	23
Recapturing Women's Creativity	
<i>Gabielle Dietrich</i> <i>(W. Germany/India)</i>	24
The Greatest Revelation is Stillness	
<i>Frances Yasas (U.S./India)</i>	25
Indian National Consultation	
Statement: "Towards a Theology of humankind: Women's Perspectives"	26
Liturgy Used at the Indian Women Theologians' Conference	28
Draupadi	
<i>Anita Mathias (India)</i>	30
The Patriarchal Element in Theology	
<i>Pauline Hensmen (Sri Lanka)</i>	31
The Meaning of Mariology for us Today	
<i>Nimalka Fernando (Sri Lanka)</i> ...	39