Glossary

1) Christology – The term “Christology” (from Greek christos meaning “anointed one” or “Christ”) refers to the study of Christ. It often includes such topics as the pre-existence and eternity of Christ, or prophecies about Christ, Christ’s humanity, deity, and incarnation, as well as the issue of his temptations and sinlessness, his death, resurrection, ascension and exaltation, return, three-fold office, and states. For detailed information, visit the link https://bible.org/seriespage/3-christology-jesus-christ. Also see link http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/14597a.htm.

2) Contact Zones – The term ‘Contact Zones’ has been used and interpreted in the sense Mary Louise Pratt has defined it in her path-breaking book Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation (1992). According to her, ‘Contact Zones’ are areas which allow the intermingling of two or more cultures. Pratt remarks that contact zones are “social spaces where cultures meet, clash, and grapple with each other, often in contexts of highly asymmetrical relations of power, such as colonialism, slavery, or their aftermaths as they are lived out in many parts of the world today.” For detailed study, see her article “Arts of the Contact Zone” (Pratt, Mary Louise. “Arts of the Contact Zone.” Profession 91 (1991): 33-40. Print).

3) Feminist Christology – Many feminists such as Rosemary Ruether and Elizabeth Johnson have expounded a critique of traditional Christology and paved way for construction of a ‘Christology’ from a feminist perspective. For detailed study, read article “Feminist Christology”, www.chogha.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/page226.html.

4) Feminist theology – Feminist theology is a movement found in several religions, including Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism, and New Thought, to reconsider the traditions, practices, scriptures, and theologies of those religions from a feminist

5) The Gaia hypothesis – The Gaia hypothesis, also known as Gaia theory or Gaia principle, proposes that organisms interact with their inorganic surroundings on Earth to form a self-regulating, complex system that contributes to maintaining the conditions for life on the planet. The hypothesis was formulated by the chemist James Lovelock and co-developed by the microbiologist Lynn Margulis in the 1970s. For more information, see the link: http://www.bibliotecapleyades.net/gaia/esp_gaia01.htm

6) Gnosticism – Gnosticism traces its roots back just after the beginning of the Christian Church. Some researchers state that evidence of its existence even predates Christianity. Whichever the case, the error of gnosticism had affected the culture and church of the time and possibly even earned a mention in 1 John 4.

The word "gnosticism" comes from the Greek word "gnosis" which means "knowledge." There were many groups that were Gnostic and it isn't possible to easily describe the nuances of each variant of Gnostic doctrines. However, generally speaking, Gnosticism taught that salvation is achieved through special knowledge (gnosis). This knowledge usually dealt with the individual's relationship to the transcendent Being. See link: https://carm.org/gnosticism

7) Goddess-based Religions – As stated in Wikipedia, The Goddess-based religion is a religious system which existed historically in many cultures, though Goddesses might not have same names and not necessarily the same traits. Goddesses refer to local or specific deities linked clearly to a particular culture and often to particular
aspects, attributes and powers, for example, Hindu Goddesses like Sarasvati, the Goddess of learning, poetry, music, inspiration and wisdom. If there is a male god, his powers may be seen as deriving from the Goddess. This term is not usually understood to refer a single deity that is identical across cultures but rather a concept common in many ancient cultures, which those in the Goddess movement want to restore (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goddess_movement). A useful website with detailed history and contemporary analysis of the Goddess-based religions is - http://www.cybele2.com

8) **Ku Klux Klan**– The Ku Klux Klan, with its long history of violence, is the most infamous and oldest of American hate groups. The Ku Klux Klan is the name of three distinct movements in the United States. In the context of the thesis, it refers to its stage. The Klan arose a third time during the 1960s to oppose the civil rights movement and to preserve segregation in the face of unfavorable court rulings. Lynchings, bombings, murders, tar-and-featherings, rapes and other violent attacks on those challenging white supremacy became a hallmark of the Klan. For more information, see link: http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/intelligence-files/ideology/ku-klux-klan.

9) **Messianism**– Messianism is the belief in a messiah, a savior or redeemer. Many religions have a messiah concept, including the Jewish Messiah and the Christian Christ. The Jewish scholarship refers to King David as Messiah who ushers in a kingdom of peace and the Christian Messiah is Jesus Christ who is a suffering servant. The premise behind the notion of messianism is that the state of the world is seen as hopelessly flawed beyond normal human powers of correction, and divine intervention through a specially selected and supported human is seen as

10) New Age Religions – Professor James R. Lewis was among the first to examine this growing religious phenomenon scientifically. In previous books, he has investigated the New Age as the most visible manifestation of a significant spiritual subculture, the roots of which reach back to Theosophy, Spiritualism, and New Thought. For detailed study, refer The Encyclopedic Sourcebook of New Age Religions by James R. Lewis and New Age and Neopagan Religions in America by Sarah M. Pike.

11) Paganism – Paganism is an umbrella term that describes a variety of denominations – known to Pagans as traditions- which for the most part organize themselves and operate without a centralized religious body or a centralized dogma. The belief that every part of the universe is profoundly interconnected shapes how Pagans view the nature of the Divine (Paganism: An Introduction to Earth-centered Religions by Joyce Higginbotham, River Higginbotham). For detailed information on Paganism, consult book Pagan Theology: Paganism as a World Religion by Michael York.

12) Pantheism – Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy defines the term ‘pantheism’ as a modern one, possibly first appearing in the writing of the Irish freethinker John Toland (1705) and constructed from the Greek roots pan (all) and theos (God). But if not the name, the ideas themselves are very ancient, and any survey of the history of philosophy will uncover numerous pantheist or pantheistically inclined thinkers. At its most general, pantheism may be understood positively as the view that God is identical with the cosmos, the view that there exists nothing which is outside of God, or else negatively as the rejection of any view that considers God as distinct from the universe. For detailed account, see the link http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/pantheism/
13) Polytheism – Polytheism is the teaching that there are many gods. In the Ancient Near East the nation of Israel was faced with the problem of the gods of other nations creeping into the theology of Judaism and corrupting the true revelation of God. In most religions which accept polytheism, the different gods are representations of forces of nature or ancestral principles. For additional information, see the entry in Encyclopedia Britannica. Also visit http://web.ccbce.com/multimedia/BLB/faq/nbi/303.html

14) Seminoles– Merriam Webster Online Dictionary states that Seminoles are North American Indian people living mainly in Florida and Oklahoma, US. Their language belongs to the Muskogean language stock. The Seminoles split off from the Creek in the later 18th century and settled in northern Florida, where they were joined by native American, African, and African American individuals who had escaped slavery in the regions to the north. Their name derives from the Creek word simanó-li, meaning “separatist,” or “runaway.” The Seminoles traditionally lived more by hunting and fishing than by agriculture (http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/seminole). For further information, read Handbook of North American Indians, Vol. 14.

15) Servanthood– Servanthood in The Bible is the condition or state of being a servant to others, of ministry to others rather than the service of self. It means willingly giving of oneself to minister for and to others and to do whatever it takes to accomplish what is best for another. Servanthood is an attitude exemplified by Christ “who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant” (Philippians 2:6-7). In The Bible, it is quoted, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to
serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). Read more, http://www.gotquestions.org/servanthood.

16) Somatology— Somatology is defined as the study or science, of the human body (coming from the Greek roots meaning “body” and “study”). This term is used in a number of different ways to describe a variety of activities related to studying the body. In one sense, somatology is the study of the body in the sense of anatomy and physiology, to learn about how the parts of the body work together. People who work in this area of somatology study a variety of topics related to the body and how it functions, such as pathology, studying what happens when the body is injured or diseased, and they may also be interested in topics like biomechanics, studying the movement and articulation of the body. See link: http://www.internationalacademy.co.za/somatology.php

17) Wiccan Priestess— Wicca is a neo-pagan religion that is centered around the love of nature and its elements primarily earth, air, fire, water, sun, moon and so on. It does not worship nature, but loves it, reveres it and is, therefore, nature oriented. The fundamental tenet of Wicca is the Wiccan Rede, “As it harm none, do as thou wilt.” It essentially means that you are free to do anything so long as you do not impose your will upon anyone or harm anyone or anything including your own self and the nature and its components. In this context, Wicca is closer to the law of Karma and its consequences (“World of Wicca”). See the link:http://www.witchcraft.com.au/wicca.html. For further reading, consult

18) Witchcraft – A witch engaged in her witchcraft practices spells developed by worshiping many deities primarily the supreme Goddess and sometimes her consort the God. The craft or workings of a witch are used for healing the acute health problems. For curing these problems, she uses the personal powers in combination
with energies within candles, stones, herbs and other natural items. Witch practices witchcraft to help better the world and mankind. A witch certainly is not ugly, nefarious, dreadful hag who worships the devil or hurts the people as the stereotype image presents her to be. (http://www.witchcraft.com.au/witch.html). It is imperative to know how this practice of Witchcraft has been denigrated in orthodox Christianity. *Catholic Encyclopedia* states that in witchcraft, as commonly understood, there is involved the idea of a diabolical pact or at least an appeal to the intervention of the spirits of evil. In such cases this supernatural aid is usually invoked either to compass the death of some obnoxious person, or to awaken the passion of love in those who are the objects of desire, or to call up the dead, or to bring calamity or impotence upon enemies, rivals, and fancied oppressors.

19) *Women’s Spirituality Movement*– The contemporary women's spirituality movement was born in the early 1970s, after women confronted an uncomfortable truth: “God” was male. The notion that “God” is considered male in the monotheistic religions dominating our present era “legitimates all earthly Godfathers,” to quote feminist philosopher Mary Daly—or, as she summed it up, “If God is male, then the male is God” (“Inner Space: The Spiritual Frontier” by Margot Adler). Visit link http://www.feminist.com/resources/artspeech/insp/inner.html
Fig. 1. Alice Walker holds a card written by a child during a news conference in front of the “U.S. boat to Gaza” near Athens in 2011.
Fig. 3. Walker’s Biographical Information in a Collage.
Fig. 2. Walker with Cuban president Fidel Castro during a 1995 visit to Havana.
"Any God I ever felt in church I brought in with me."

Alice Walker

Fig. 4. Alice Walker’s pantheistic view of God.
A contemporary “pagan” woman, whose home is the rain forest of West Africa. She is beautiful, self-sufficient, elegantly dressed, and serene, and the God/Goddess of Nature, which surrounds her and of which she is part, has obviously earned her complete trust. Only to enslave her spirit and body to the will of others need another God, foreign to her experience of Creation, be introduced.

PHOTO BY ELISABETH SUNDAY, 1989

Fig. 5. A contemporary pagan woman
“The animals of the world exist for their own reasons. They were not made for humans any more than black people were made for white, or women created for... Oh, never mind.”

-Alice Walker

Fig. 6. Walker’s views on animal rights and racism
Fig. 7. Alice Walker voices the ubiquitous nature of injustice and inequalities.
Fig. 8. An Indian man hugs a tree as a mark of solidarity with the Chipko movement
Fig. 9. Alice Walker with Samuel Zan
Walker tends her garden in Mendocino County, California. She moved to the West Coast in 1978 after residing for the previous four years in Brooklyn, New York.

Fig. 10. Walker tending her garden