

I begin with the proposition enunciated by Eberhard Jüngel that 'God's being is in coming' and that God goes on ways to himself even when they lead to other places, even to that which is not God. This implies, I will argue, that his presence can be found in cultural forms, in the arts in particular, and that what they have to tell us may contribute to our understanding of scriptural revelation since the reception even of sacred texts occur within the context of given culture. Reflecting on the latest novel by Gail Jones, *Sorry* (which was on the long list for the Miles Franklin Award), I will explore the ways in which it may throw light on the significance of the biblical figure of the 'suffering servant', but also on the inability of some Christians to respond to it. I will also suggest that to see the sufferings of Aboriginal Australians in terms of this figure is to discover a deeper and richer sense of where and how God may be speaking to us in this country today.

Veronica Brady is a Loreto Sister, Honorary Senior Research Fellow in the Department of English and Cultural Studies at the University of Western Australia. Her most recent book is *South of My Days: A Biography of Judith Wright* (1998).

ATF Press



Australasian Theological Forum
PO BOX 504 Hindmarsh
South Australia 5007
Australia
www.atfpress.com

ISBN 9781920691875



9 781920 691875 >

Contents

Preface	ix
1. 'God Is Dead, Anyway. Anyway—Thank God— In Australia.'	1
2. 'Keep Your Mind In Hell And Despair Not.' <i>For The Term of His Natural Life And The Possibilities Of Isolation</i>	9
3. Human Distress And Suffering: The Question Of The Holocaust. Primo Levi's <i>If This Is A Man</i>	21
4. The Dragon Slayer: Patrick White And History	33
5. Borders, Identity And Australia	41
6. The Poetics Of Place: Judith Wright's 'At Cooloola'	51
7. An Incident In The Culture Wars: Judith Wright's 'Haunted Land'	61
8. Blasphemy And Sacrilege In The Arts: The Challenge Of Kim Scott's <i>Benang</i>	71
9. After Cronulla: The Defense Of <i>The White Earth</i>	81
10. 'Are We Here But To Name The World?': Ways Of Naming And Praising	89
11. An Apology For The Library And For 'The Golden World Of The Imagination': A Neo-Luddite View	97
12. 'What Is Truth?', Said Jestng Pilate, And Did Not Stay To Hear	111
13. 'Such Is Life My Fellow Mummers': The Seditious Joseph Furphy	117