



Poetry as a lens on debates about science in the seventeenth century

Handmaid to Divinity *Natural Philosophy, Poetry, and Gender in Seventeenth-Century England*

By Desiree Hellegers

In *Handmaid to Divinity*, Desiree Hellegers establishes seventeenth-century poetry as a critical resource for understanding the debates about natural philosophy, astronomy, and medicine during the Scientific Revolution. Hellegers provides important insights into seventeenth-century responses to the emergent discourses of Western science and into the cultural roots of the current environmental crisis. Drawing on recent cultural and feminist critiques of science, Hellegers offers finely nuanced readings of John Donne's *Anniversaries*, John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, and Anne Finch's *The Spleen*.

Desiree Hellegers is Professor of English and Director of Collective for Social and Environmental Justice at Washington State University, Vancouver and the author of *No Room of Her Own: Women's Stories of Homelessness, Life, Death, and Resistance*.

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