

Preface

The question concerning the relationship between religion and spirituality, and organizations and managing, is vast, complex and far from settled. The field is still in its relative infancy, and there are numerous issues that await further inquiry. This book could be seen as an attempt to address some of the more fundamental questions regarding religion and spirituality as they are applied to organizational life. It is not intended as an exhaustive account of the topic, but rather as a contribution to the ongoing and developing conversation.

My perspective on spirituality and religion stems mainly from the traditions and philosophy of Greek Orthodox Christianity. This wing of Christianity has been so far relatively little discussed in the field of spirituality and religion of organizations, despite its rich lived spirituality, and its intimate connections to the classical Platonist philosophy. However, I do not claim theological authority over the substantial issues of faith. Rather, Orthodoxy is used as a deep inspiration that informs my engagement with religious issues of spirituality, alongside other influences.

When writing about spirituality, one is unavoidably confronted with the challenge of expressing the ideas at a number of different

levels. Besides the cognitive and rational plane, religious writing is, at its best, an iconographic exercise, where the beauty and holiness of the spiritual should be allowed to blossom through the poetics of the text. However, in the age of mass research, the esthetic and emotional aspects of scholarly writing are often forgotten. Yet, and in keeping with the multifaceted nature of scholarly expression, I have tried to avoid the excessive use of clinical academic style whenever possible.

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