

# Sacrifice

This *Sofia* begins with Clem Cook's article on Don Cupitt. Clem was surprised there was no Cupitt chapter in the recently published book *Religion and Atheism: Beyond the Divide*. His article suggests what might have been in it. A BBC Radio 4 programme called *Sea of Faith*, presented by Giles Fraser, will be broadcasting Don Cupitt himself at 11am on Friday March 15<sup>th</sup>.

The title of this *Sofia* is 'Sacrifice' and we have four pieces relating to the theme in different ways. Dominic Kirkham unpicks the idea of 'original sin' needing a sacrifice to atone for it. In 'A Man of Sorrows' Ben Whitney reflects on a dramatised version of Handel's *Messiah* which he attended recently. There is another 'thinkpiece' by your Editor, this time on human and animal sacrifice. Kathryn Southworth's poem 'Dr Brighton' features the hospital for Indian and Gurkha soldiers, 1.5 million of whom fought with the British forces in the First World War.

A second hospital poem, 'Nurses' by Cicely Herbert, written when she spent three months in hospital after a serious road accident in Camden Town, has a comic, delightfully honest ending. Penny Mawdsley 'revisits' and revels in Keats' *Eve of St Agnes*. She mentions 'two happy coincidences': the evening before her copy deadline, 20<sup>th</sup> January, was indeed St Agnes' Eve, and the poem itself was written in 1819, so this year is its bi-centenary.

*Sofia* also has its usual Letters to the Editor and Reviews and John Pearson's *As I Please* column this time is about a recent trip to Berlin, recalling Wilfred Owen's poem 'Strange Meeting': 'I am the enemy you killed, my friend.'

Finally, below this short editorial you can see brief details of the 2019 SOF Annual Conference. With this *Sofia* you should receive two fliers, one with more Conference information and the other a booking form.

## SOF NETWORK 32<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

University of Leicester, Stamford Court Conference Centre  
 Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019

### *Speakers*

#### **Ernie Rea**

Presenter of Radio 4 *Beyond Belief*

#### **Avril Robarts**

Yoga teacher and specialist in Indian spirituality

#### **Stephen Williams**

Retired probation officer and SOF treasurer



**sof 2019**

Information and booking form fliers with this *Sofia* or online: [sofconference.org.uk](http://sofconference.org.uk)  
 or contact:

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