

CREATION'S WISDOM

Spiritual Practice and Climate Change



Daniel Wolpert

ORBIS  BOOKS
Maryknoll, New York 10545

Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Orbis Books, please visit our website at www.orbisbooks.com.

Copyright © 2020 by Daniel Wolpert

Published by Orbis Books, Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

All rights reserved.

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version: Catholic Edition, Copyright © 1989 and 1993, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to: Orbis Books, P.O. Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

Manufactured in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Wolpert, Daniel, 1959- author.

Title: Creation's wisdom : spiritual practice and climate change / Daniel Wolpert.

Description: Maryknoll, New York : Orbis Books, 2020. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2020006724 (print) | LCCN 2020006725 (ebook) | ISBN 9781626984011 (trade paperback) | ISBN 9781608338658 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Nature—Religious aspects—Christianity. | Climatic changes—Religious aspects—Christianity. | Five agents (Chinese philosophy) | Spiritual life—Christianity.

Classification: LCC BT695.5 .W655 2020 (print) | LCC BT695.5 (ebook) |

DDC 261.8/8—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020006724>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2020006725>

Contents



Preface	ix
Introduction	xi
1. The Earth Has a Fever	1
2. A Spiritual Crisis	12
3. The Rise of Embodied Spirituality	25
4. Elemental Wisdom	38
5. The Wisdom of Space: A Loving Container	50
6. The Wisdom of Water: Clarity	63
7. The Wisdom of Air: Compassionate Action	75
8. The Wisdom of Earth: Grounded in Abundance	86
9. The Wisdom of Fire: Love for All	98
10. Living Elemental Practice	110
11. Tracing Your Elemental Journey	125
12. On Being Prepared for Anything	136
Conclusion: Listening to Wisdom's Call	147
Appendix: Summary of Elemental Practice	152
Chart: Summary of the Five Wisdom System	161