Sharon Ceres

Journal Article

**Plaskow, J. and Fiorenza, E. 2013. “Martin Marty Award Conversation Between Judith Plaskow and Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza.” Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion 165–86.**

This article is an interview between Judith Plaskow and New Testament scholar Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza. The interview begins with Fiorenza detailing her family background, early childhood, and the completion of her doctorate in Theology. Fiorina overcomes gender barriers in the early pursuit of her studies in theology. She loses her scholarship as a result of being a female. The justification given to her is that there is no future in theology for females. This same justification is stated as reasoning for denying her parish work as well.

When asked if she would have called herself a feminist in her early studies and career, Fiorenza relates that while although she was certainly a feminist, she would not have called herself such at the time. This is due to the negative connotations related to the word feminist during that time period. She indicates that she was most concerned with the “logical status of the lay-people” ( Plaskow and Fiorenze 2013;170). Women were the prime example of laity that Fiorenze utilized to explore this topic.

Later in the interview Fiorenze notes how the women’s liberation movement in America helped her to shape her own voice. Originally from Germany, Firoenze moved to the United States in 1970. During this time period she was afforded more opportunities to participate in theology organizations and academics. She notes the various feminist movements in the US that helped shape her academic work. She also discusses one of her early and influential essays, which inspired the work of the interviewer. Here she defines terms such as theology and critical theology.