

**Seventh International Conference of
Manichaean Studies
Dublin 2009**

Abstracts

**An Investigation of the Concepts of Seclusion and Public Exhibition
in Relation to Women and Female Figures in Manichaean Texts**

Majella Franzmann

This paper presents a study of the extended simile in Kephalaia Chapter 55 that attempts to provide further explanation of the event of the seduction of the archons, a key moment in the Manichaean story of salvation. The central character of the simile is a woman for whom personal seclusion from the public gaze appears to be the norm in her daily life. Beginning from that story I investigate the occurrence of stories, teaching, or depictions in Manichaean sources that include the seclusion of women, as well as the larger socio-political setting in which this simile may have arisen.