

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

Abstracts

**The Concept of Body and the Body of Christ in the Manichean Coptic
Psalm Book (MCPB).**

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The paper deals with Manichaean Christology and the ambivalent concept of the body in the MCPB. Their origin may be found in the Bible, as well as in the Angelic Christology of Judeo-Christian and Gnostic Tradition. This concept of body is reflected by the body of the historical Jesus, who “made himself like the angels in [...] until he travelled and descended to the form of flesh” (Kephalaia 61,21-23). According to the Gospel of Philip, Jesus had a real body, but he is not subject to Death, because he does not know concupiscence. Therefore, like in the Christian Tradition, he can suffer on the Cross and his Crucifixion is a defraud for the demons, to make him able to descend into Hell and to win the demons. These events can be found in the MCPB, in the Ascensio Isaiae, as well as in Origen and other Fathers of the Church. The second idea of body related to Christ is connected with the Manichaean Ritual Meal, that can be seen also in the Gospel of Philip, in which the holy man appears “completely holy, down to his very body” and able to consecrate everything he gets (Nag Hammadi II,3,77,1-4).