



April 29, 2013

Recommendation for Dr. Sarojini Nadar

To Whom It May Concern

It is a real pleasure to speak in support of Dr. Nadar's promotion to Full Professor. I am writing on the basis of her scholarship, gift for communication, and fine presentation, all of which played important roles in the course on Women in African Christianity which I taught in the spring of 2012 at Princeton Theological Seminary. (The syllabus is attached here.) Associated with the course was a continuing education conference event, hosted by the School of Christian Vocation and Mission at Princeton Seminary, which drew a considerable number of people from as far away as North Carolina and included theological students and retirees as well as many others.

My class first became acquainted with Dr. Nadar's work through reading her own article "Barak God and Die!" as well as other materials from her edited works. The article exploring the use of Job in addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis was very thought-provoking for the whole class, and led to much animated discussion at the time it was assigned. It also continued to echo through later conversations and writing, which is an important sign that students have connected with the pain and passion as well as the re-casting of an old idea which Dr. Nadar so successfully presented. Whatever revisions I will make to the course before I teach it again next spring (2014), they will certainly not change my plan to have the students read this article, and I hope to include more of Dr. Nadar's work for the students to read and digest.

Dr. Nadar made a plenary presentation in the one-day conference entitled African Women Extraordinaire, sponsored by the School of Christian Vocation and Mission on March 9, 2012. (The conference outline is attached here.) Her lecture "African Women's Theologies: Characteristics, Challenges and Chances for Change" was beautifully done, offering a fine and concise overview of much pertinent information, in a form which communicated clearly and well with a diverse audience. Dr. Nadar used visual media effectively, she spoke in a very engaging manner, she interacted with her hearers in a personally respectful and yet also appropriately challenging way. The audience, which included one of my highly honored Old Testament colleagues among others, was fascinated; that colleague asked for a copy of the lecture, and we discussed means of getting it published for use in our classes. Dr. Nadar also took part in the small group conversations which were a part of the conference, and it was obvious that she connected very well with the participants; it was difficult to disengage her from one group to move to the next! Later, the director of the SCVM program told me that this conference received the most positive response of any that he had organized in his five years of leadership.

Elsie Anne McKee, Ph.D., Archibald Alexander Professor of Reformation Studies and the History of Worship

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by E. A. McKee

Besides Dr. Nadar's more formal qualifications, I want to add a personal comment about working with her. It was delightful and energizing. Sarojini is a warm and welcoming person, very efficient in responding (which really helps when one is organizing anything!), and a pleasure to have as a colleague, even very briefly. We hope to invite her back to Princeton at a future date for a longer period, to teach a regular course, and I will be very happy when that is possible.

Thank you for your attention and please know that I very strongly support the promotion of Dr. Sarojini Nadar to Full Professor. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Elsie McKee

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