

Laura Savu\*

***THE WAY TO GRACE:  
TERRENCE MALICK'S ECOTHEOLOGICAL VISION IN  
THE TREE OF LIFE***

There are two ways through life: the way of nature, and the way of grace. You have to choose which one to follow. – *The Tree of Life*

**Keywords:** *creation, deep ecology, ecotheological, God, innocence, Nature, spiritual.*

**Abstract:** *Terrence Malick's fifth and most experimental film The Tree of Life provides a fertile ground for exploring the various facets of Nature, along with the questions these raise and the implications they carry for understanding our fraught relationships with the divine. As I argue, by affirming its protagonists' vital relation to the "deeper world" they inhabit, the movie projects an ecotheological vision that casts Nature as a matter-spirit continuum, a vast "church" filled with intimations of immortality, a place they can call "home."*

---

\* Independent scholar