

## Two Souls, One Rationality: Navigating *Daraaro* Ritual and Protestant Christianity Through Theological Labour in Gedeo, South Ethiopia

Tesfaye Gedecho Genalle, Catherine Ndinda

This article examines how Gedeo believers in southern Ethiopia rationally navigate competing truth claims at the intersection of indigenous *Daraaro* ritual and Protestant Christianity. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork across multiple sites in the Gedeo Zone, it introduces and clarifies the concept of theological labour as the process of conscious, reflective deliberation within and between received traditions. Through this process, believers critically reason through and reconcile conflicting theological claims to construct coherent religious identities from diverse sources. The analysis argues that religious rationality in a pluralistic context cannot be fully explained by frameworks that emphasise a binary choice between mutually exclusive systems. Instead, Gedeo believers exhibit creative agency by navigating between traditions and selectively utilising multiple resources to address existential and communal needs. The ontological tension between divine immanence, as articulated in *Daraaro*, and divine transcendence, as emphasised in Protestant Christianity, raises fundamental questions about the meaning of religious claims within specific forms of life. Authenticity under cross-pressure may reside not in stable resolution but in the quality of ongoing negotiation. This article advances philosophical understanding of religious rationality, tradition, and identity in contexts of cultural contact.

Keywords

*Daraaro*; Gedeo, Protestant Christianity; Religious rationality; theological labour;

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**Keywords:** Theological labour, religious pluralism, tradition-constituted rationality, Gedeo, *Daraaro*<sup>1</sup>, Protestant Christianity, divine immanence and transcendence, authenticity