

Asian Horizons 1, 1 (June 2007)

Editorial

Asian Hermeneutics

Reality is true and tangible,
central and relational.
To approach it is reasonable
and relation is made possible:
both for the individual and universally.
The closer the reality,
the greater its mystery
and more splendid its beauty.

Reality is visible and audible
and the seeing and listening should be credible,
without which life is miserable
and every attempt is futile.
Admire the real
and aspire for the ideal:
it is indeed rational and fruitful.

Reality is also mystery;
it is beyond total comprehension
and complete communication
still a matter of contemplation
and communion.
Reality beheld as mystery is a revelation
and it offers a wider horizon
for reflection, integration and interpretation
leading to concrete action,
liberation, celebration and transformation.

Asian Horizons 1, 1 (June 2007)

Editorial

Asian Hermeneutics

Reality is true and tangible,
central and relational.
To approach it is reasonable
and relation is made possible:
both for the individual and universally.
The closer the reality,
the greater its mystery
and more splendid its beauty.

Reality is visible and audible
and the seeing and listening should be credible,
without which life is miserable
and every attempt is futile.
Admire the real
and aspire for the ideal:
it is indeed rational and fruitful.

Reality is also mystery;
it is beyond total comprehension
and complete communication
still a matter of contemplation
and communion.
Reality beheld as mystery is a revelation
and it offers a wider horizon
for reflection, integration and interpretation
leading to concrete action,
liberation, celebration and transformation.

Asia is a vast possibility
on account of its reality:
identity, variety and beauty,
and in the midst of all there is the underlying unity
in interiority and intellectual category
in religiosity, poverty and plurality.
It is a land of history
and a people of mastery
where the Lord of history
reveals His Mystery
for God's glory,
flourishing of humanity
and the world's prosperity.
Pilgrimage is the way
to the core of the reality.
Encountering the mystery,
sages tell the story
of the ineffable divine glory
housed in history
revealed in diversity
and uniquely in human beings
for they are made in the image of God's glory.

Seeking the invisible is a reality
seeing it is a marvellous mystery
speaking about it is a ministry
staying with it is a joy
striving for it is the destiny
sharing with others is an added joy
showing the way is the path to the fullness of joy,
which is the shining beauty of God's glory
and the splendour of human dignity.

Asian Horizons:

Dharmaram journal of theology

is in continuity with the CMI legacy

and done with a sense of duty

to get behind and go beyond the boundary

at the golden jubilee of Dharmaram in the garden city.

Asian Horizons is a search for the significance of the Story

adorned with Asian embroidery and beauty

guiding the destiny of human history.

Asian Horizons

harps on the interiority and poetry

deep religiosity and abject poverty

cultural diversity and economic prosperity

of Asian reality and mystery.

Asian Horizons

is to dive deep into the abyss of the Indian and Pacific oceans

climb up the Himalayan mountain

connect the islands of isolation

cross the walls of separation

care for the wider horizon

and create the web of relation

in contemplation, communication and communion.

Asian Horizons

is to engage in intellectual interaction

enlighten the human intention

encourage the will for conversion and transformation.

Asian Horizons

is to recollect the nature of Christian mission

review the Asian situation and action

renew the face of the world with the ideal vision.

Asian Horizons

is to provide a forum for deeper Asian-Christian communion

persevere in the work of evangelisation

promote the Asian theological contribution.

Asian Horizons

is to unfold the Christian mystery
 uphold the ecclesial diversity
 behold the divine-human beauty
 of Jesus Christ, the Lord of history.

This issue of *Asian Horizons*

focuses on Asian Hermeneutics:
 biblical, historical, theological and spiritual.

Paul Kalluveettil, CMI

invites the attention

to focus on the biblical images of land and prophet
 for an all-embracing biblical hermeneutics.

A. Mathias Mundadan, CMI

makes a brief historical survey of Asian hermeneutics
 and presents the salient trends.

His article has two parts.

The first part is published in this issue,

which harps on the Syrian trend,

and focuses on Ephrem, the poet-theologian

his Syriac symbolic hermeneutics:

the Scripture and the Nature

capable of directing the eye of faith to Christ,

'clothing himself in a human body.'

Jacob Parapally, MSFS

invites the attention of theologians

to overcome the point of contradiction

and follow the path of identity

in view of the Asian hermeneutics.

Francis Vineeth Vadakkethala, CMI

guides a meditation on cosmic consciousness
 based on the prayer "Our Father"

and gives insights into a new interpretation.

This issue of *Asian Horizons* carries an article
 of the late Bishop Jonas Thaliath, CMI,

the mastermind of Dharmaram.
Twenty-five years are over since his demise
but his memory is ever vibrating in this garden.
His article, written for the silver jubilee
souvenir of Dharmaram,
offers an Asian horizon and *darsan* of theological education,
that is, *fides querens harmoniam vitae*.
As we celebrate the golden jubilee of Dharmaram
and launch *Asian Horizons: Dharmaram journal of theology*,
his article is a beacon light and spring of life
on our way of contemplation,
communication and communion.

May the voice and the face of Jesus, the Asian
take us to the heart of Asian Horizon!

Paulachan Kochappilly, CMI
Editor-in-Chief