

Dalit Theology

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Editorial

Dalits –
The oppressed
The suppressed
The marginalized
The least
The last
The lost –
Are dear to God
And near to the land
The mass of humankind
In the womb of the world
Yet far from the shining world
The wheel of the moving world
Yet the stranded and the poor of the world.

Dalits
Dare to think
Dare to talk
Dare to walk
To manifest the strength in weakness
To disclose heights in lowliness
To unveil largeness in smallness
To reveal landedness in landlessness
To uncover stability in mobility
To show unity in diversity
To witness charity in solidarity
To be an epiphany of divinity in humanity
To provide hospitality in hostility
To act locally in thinking globally
To live in identity in anonymity

To be the beauty in serenity
 To reveal the reality in poverty
 To unveil the veracity in humility

Dalits shape humanity:
 The hands and the legs of humanity
 The eyes and the ears of humanity
 The mouth and the stomach of humanity
 The cry and the joy of humanity
 The love and hope of humanity
 The voice and the face of humanity

The future and promise of humanity
 The change and challenge of humanity
 The process and the progress of humanity

The course of history
 The determination and dedication of humanity
 Tell the truth of liberty
 The goodness of identity
 The beauty of loyalty
 Depends on the capability
 In recognising the dalit identity
 Respecting and responding to the dalit community
 And shedding the ghetto mentality
 Embracing the totality
 Promoting the flowering of humanity
 Contemplating the Master's law, logic, and legacy:

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5: 2-12)
 The utterances of Jesus,
 "Truly, I say to you,
 As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren,
 You did it to me' (Matthew 25: 40),
 "Many that are first will be last,
 And the last first" (Matthew 19:30)
 Reveal the worth of dalits,
 At all spheres and realms –
 Economic
 Educational
 Religio-cultural
 Socio-political
 Discrimination and exploitation
 Segregation and suppression.

Dream the dream
That Dalits dream,
For it is God's own dream for humanity:
March in unity and solidarity
With dignity and equality
Not as charity or mercy
But right to liberty
On divine intentionality
On human relationality
Indeed, on divine authority
And on human authenticity.

Jesus' ministry
Portrays the summary succinctly
In all its splendour and beauty:
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
Because he has anointed me
To preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
And recovering of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed,
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18-19).

Paulachan Kochappilly, CMI
Editor-in-Chief