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BOOK REVIEW

George Kaniarakath, CMI & Varghese Pathikulangara, CMI, *The Word in Celebration. Vol. 1. Prayerful Study and Reflection on the Biblical Readings in the Sacred Liturgy of the Passion Week and the Great Sunday of Resurrection in the Syriac Tradition*, Kottayam: Denha Services, 2011. Pages: 147+8. ISBN 978-81-905799-9-5

The Word in Celebration is a timely volume to help the readers walk the way of the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord, the central and focal mysteries of Christian faith and living. The book is a reflection on the Word of God given for the "Passion Week" or the "Week of Salvation" or "Great Week," commencing with *Oshana* Sunday, concluding with the Great Sunday of Resurrection. It is an account of joy in journeying with the Lord till the end.

The authors have dedicated the book to the confreres in the CMI religious community and fellow believers in the *Mar Toma Margam* of the SyroMalabar Church in the golden jubilee year of their religious commitment.

Besides a concise and comprehensive introduction on the Passion Week and Resurrection Sunday, the book has twelve chapters. They are: (I) *Oshana* Sunday, (II) Monday of Passion Week, (III) Tuesday of Passion Week, (IV) Wednesday of Passion Week, (V) Thursday of *Pesha*, (VI) *Lelya* in preparation of Passion Friday, (VII) *Ramsha*, the Evening Liturgy on Passion Friday, (VIII) *Ramsha*, the evening liturgy on Great Saturday, (IX) *Qudasha*, the Holy *Qurbana* on Great Saturday, (X) *Taksa' d-Hugaja' da-Shlama' daQjamta*: The Order of Celebration the Peace of the Resurrection, (XI) *Qudasha*, the Holy *Qurbana* on the Great Sunday of Resurrection, and (XII) Resurrection, Life and Renewal.

The Word in Celebration contemplates on the readings of the Passion Week, in which the whole drama of salvation is made once again active and alive for the appreciation and assimilation of the assembly, at the epiphany of which the faithful renew their life in view of the glorious risen Lord, the icon of redeemed humanity. As stated in the book, the journey of the authors is focused on the Resurrection, Life and Renewal. According to them the whole

Christian life “begins, moves on and culminates in Resurrection, namely, Christian life is the celebration of Resurrection” (p.9).

The volume makes many valuable suggestions for Christian life. One such beautiful suggestion is the meaningful salutation during the Resurrection Sunday and in the whole period of Resurrection Weeks. We are informed about the beautiful traditional greeting formula for the occasion: “The Resurrection of our Lord be with you” and its response “Resurrection, Life and Renewal be with you” (p.132).

The Word in Celebration is an invitation to enter into and enjoy the mystery of Resurrection, Life and Renewal. Actually the dynamics of the Word in Celebration, in the words of the authors, is: “What is proclaimed, confessed and celebrated in the Sacred Liturgy must also be lived and perfected through every moment of our Christian life” (p. 147). The thought that pervades and permeates the book is that the Word in Celebration should be translated into Life of Celebration; the Celebration of the Word of God should transform life. The Resurrection, Life, and Renewal are presented as the single motif of the mystery of the “Passion Week” or the “Week of Salvation.” In publishing this book the authors have succinctly substantiated the age-old and eternally valid method of doing theology in and through the Liturgy of the Church.

I take this opportunity to appreciate and congratulate the authors for providing a treasure house for contemplation and action on the Passion Week in view of celebrating the mystery of salvation. This volume is a tribute to all those who aspire for a Christ-centred and Word-oriented life. It is a companion for all who have unconditionally consecrated themselves to Jesus Christ and to his Gospel.

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