

Zacharias P. Thundy, Kuncheria Pathil, Frank Podgorski, (eds)
*Religion in Dialogue: East and West Meet, Lanham: University Press
of America, 1985, pp. 336, \$ 14.50.*

The Volume is a Festschrift in honour of J.B. Chethimattam, planned as a *Shashtyabda-purtismaraka*, when he completed his 60th year. An extract from Chethimattam's article, which appears as the Epilogue brings out very well the nature of the content of this work.

"But belief systems and traditions have no value unless accepted by conscious beings; and rational beings cannot accept ideas and systems except under the aspects of truth and good. No one can accept evil or falsehood for its own sake. Any error lives in the minds of those who accept it on account of the element of truth trapped in it. Hence the effective way of fighting error is not burning people who in good faith follow it, but rather recognizing and thus liberating the truth factor hidden in the particular erroneous system, at the same time rejecting the falsehood, and thereby liberating the human beings caught in the limitations of the particular truth. Even the most perfect religion is not absolute truth, but is characterized by various limitations, social, cultural, political and the like; and, therefore, needs liberation in interaction with other truth systems. Interreligious dialogue, therefore, even for the most perfect of religions is not a luxury, but a need lest it should remain a prisoner to its own limitation."

The articles in this volume appear in three sections with a Prologue and an Epilogue. The former contains a select Bibliography of Chethimattam's publications and a study of his works by this reviewer himself. The Epilogue is an article by Chethimattam under the title "Towards a World Theology: An Interreligious Approach to Theological Issues." The article claims that today World Religions are not viewed as competing ideologies, but as "traditions that represent varying ways of faith and providing solutions to the basic problems