

The final section of the manual deals with Jaina ethics. The author validates the relevance of the fivefold principles of ethical behaviour prescribed by Mahavira even in to modern times. Though the discussion on each topic is brief, the book shows real insights into the richness of the wisdom of Jainism. Though the author does not seem to have done full justice to the various other aspects of the system such as the concept of time, yoga, rituals, social institutions etc. he has created a sense of importance about his comparatively dormant school of thought in Indian cultural history.

Philip Kollithanath

James A. Santucci,

An Outline of Vedic Literature,

Missoula: School Press, 1976, 69 + ix pp.

In shaping the Indian culture, Hinduism has made its own unique contribution. This contribution is displayed in the magnificent array of Sacred Scriptures right from the Vedic times. A major portion of this impressive contribution has been catalogued by Dr. James A. Santucci in his beautiful little book called *Outline of Vedic Literature*, which contains a conspectus of the various sacred scriptures of the *Sruti* section of the Vedic scriptural tradition.

The speciality of the work is that it provides simple and graphic accounts about each book along with other relevant information concerning the basic question discussed in each book. It also contains bibliographical data of works, related to the Vedic Scriptures such as their editions, translations etc. The systematic arrangement of the titles gives at one glance a neat comprehensive view of this grand section of Vedic literature which lies scattered around the world.

Along with a bibliographic presentation of the titles of Vedic literature, the author also gives an ideographic outline of the main trend of the Vedic thinking. According to the summary given by the author one understands the Vedas as a genuine treasury of "poetry and creative science". The combination of both prepares the background for a very realistic type of religion which combines

beauty and truth, sensation and intuition, unity and diversity. He also points out the radical change brought about by the *Aranyakas* in interpreting rituals with reference to real intuitive prayer; this orientation reaches its culmination in Upanishads, where the word "Om" gives expression to the total reality-content. Om is understood as the breath of life (*Prāna*) of every living being and the essence of reality. It is more a symbol of reality than a mantra of individuality.

This book will serve as a good guide for further explorations in the field of Vedic studies.

Antony Maliekal.

Charles P. Price,

The Principles of Christian Faith and Practice,

New Delhi: Islam and Modern Age Society Publication,
1977, 305+xiii pp.

In the past, religions remained relatively isolated from one another. However, in these days of dialogue, quick communication, and vastly increased mobility have turned the world into one 'global village'. Today, especially in India, which is a land of all major religions, Buddhists and Muslims, Christians and Jews, Hindus and Agnostics, intermingle socially and academically. This situation requires the people of the various faiths to make an effort to understand each other and, especially, to know what other religions have to say about the greatest issues of life and destiny.

It is, therefore, encouraging to see that *Islam and Modern Society* has come forward to meet this urgent need, by publishing books on major religions. Here the book under review *The Principles of christian faith and Practice* is a mine of information for those who seek to understand the fundamental principle of Christianity. It is written in a simple style by Charles P. Price, an ordained minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

The book is divided into four parts. The first part deals with the 'General Principles' in three chapters. The second part is on the 'Principles of Christian Faith'. This part is divided into eight chapters. The third and the fourth parts are on 'Principles of Christian Practice' in eight chapters.