

Rayappa A. Kasi, “Eco-Protection Series”: (1) Global Warming, (2) Biosphere: The Fragility of Our Natural Heritage, (3) Lithosphere: A Destructive Creator, (4) Hydrosphere: The Giver of Life, and (5) Atmosphere: A Thin Line between Life and Death, Chennai: LTD Mdia, 2010.

Of late, the citizens of the world, understanding the state of nature in ‘black’ and ‘white’, are a worried lot with regard to the alarming consequences that await them. Written in the backdrop of the United Nations International Year of Biodiversity 2010 and Year for Priests 2009-2010, the Eco-Protection Series of five books, namely, Global Warming, Biosphere, Lithosphere, Hydrosphere and Atmosphere by Rayappa A. Kasi blends the religious spirit and the scientific rigour and opens up the richness of the earth systems in an interesting and inspiring manner. The unique writing style of Rayappa A. Kasi makes it a compelling read for the beginners as well as scholars. In this Eco-Protection Series of five books, Kasi unlocks the facts and figures about the earth systems in a creative and scholarly way that creates awareness, facilitates the dawn of realization, and necessitates action.

The first among the series of five books of Eco-Protection Series is Global Warming. This book updates us from Copenhagen Conference giving a clear picture of the dynamics behind the Copenhagen Accord. The Indian ground reality is well exposed with the thought provoking incidents and figures. The author clearly states that global warming is global warning. The author warns us by quoting the scientists that the 5000 living species of animals and plants which were present last year are not here today and another mass extinction is underway, thanks to the irrational human activity. The future catastrophe that might happen if nature is protected does send shivers down the spine of readers. The practical ways which can

be applied in real life context to protect Mother Earth too is discussed by the author. Thus, this book is a call to trust, enjoy, and protect nature heeding the global warning, so that the future generations too will get a fair share of what we possess. The second book, *Biosphere: The Fragility of Our Natural Heritage* gains special significance as the year 2010 is declared the Year of Biodiversity by the United Nations. Drawing parallels between the Year for Priests and the Year of Biodiversity, the author brings out compelling environmental and spiritual reasons to protect the treasure of Biodiversity. Among the spiritual reasons, seven themes of ecological responsibility and top ten reasons to care for creation motivate one into action. The environmental reasons are creatively presented and attractively written that includes seven wonders of biosphere and biodiversity and the ten heroes of biosphere. The concise, clear, and creative presentation makes these books a compelling read. *Lithosphere: A Destructive Creator* is the third book in the EcoProtection Series. The religious and scientific significance are clearly brought about while revealing the richness of lithosphere along with the disasters. By presenting the deep-cut wounds and scars of lithosphere, the message of Rayappa is loud and clear: bring down the consumption of resources and focus on simplicity of life by cultivating cheaper, nonmaterial sources of fulfilment. By focusing on priests, he says that priesthood is a powerful tool to advocate simple lifestyle to other people around us. This is possible only with a sacrifice on the amount of resources being consumed. The author has done full justice to lithosphere looking from diverse perspectives like the seven wonders of lithosphere, seven disasters of lithosphere and ten heroes of lithosphere. The ten commandments of lithosphere also deserve a special mention. This book sets one free from the oblivion of the obvious.

The focus is shifted to Hydrosphere: The Giver of Life in the fourth book of Eco-Protection Series. At a time when oil spills by BP at Gulf of Mexico is discussed world over, Rayappa's book would answer the sceptics who scoff at those who care about the recent developments by asking "Why the fuss about oil spills, when there are serious matters on land?" Though the book spans across a few pages like the others in series, the author is successful in bringing about the essence of hydrosphere with all its mysteries and dangers. Being written in the Year for Priests, the author asks the priest to step in and lead the community to chalk out strategies to come out of the disasters like water pollution, water shortage, coastal erosion and marine over-harvesting. As in the previous books, the author's creativity at full work can be seen when he brings out the seven mega disasters of hydrosphere, seven wonders of hydrosphere, and ten heroes of hydrosphere. The book ends with "Ten Commandments of Hydrosphere" that calls for a paradigm shift. The fifth and final number in the series on Eco-Protection is Atmosphere: A Thin Line between Life and Death. Outlining the significance of atmosphere for living beings the author also puts to question the reckless acts of human beings who pay no heed to the warning signals. Calling the disregard to atmosphere as a sin against God and against other people, Rayappa exhorts priests and every religious person to read and recognize the grave threats to atmosphere and appeals to all people in such a way that they are pressed into action. The seven wonders and seven mega disasters of atmosphere along with ten heroes of atmosphere give us a comprehensive outlook on atmosphere. The ten commandments of atmosphere, discussed towards the end, form the essential pre-requisite to change the attitude and delve into new horizons with responsibility. Curtains are down for the 'Fuga Mundi' – 'world fleeing' spirituality. Being the leaders of the society, it is high time that priests and religious people of every faith are aware of the richness that

adorns and the threats that hound nature. Rayappa A. Kasi's Eco-Protection Series, which consists of five books, is a perfect starter for beginners and invokes a new vision to the scholars interested in environmental issues. Concise and update, these books are a must read as they create awareness, reveal the challenges, outlines practical solutions, and above all sends out a strong message that environmental protection is not a choice but a necessity.