

BOOK NOTICE

1. **Augustine Thottakara (ed.), *Women and Worship: Perspectives from World Religions***, Bangalore: Journal of Dharma & Dharmaram Publications, 2000, pp.296. Rs 250.00; US\$ 18.00. ISBN: 81-86861-22-X.

It is a matter of fact, a truth of history and a phenomenon of our daily experience that women are eminently tuned to a more intense form of religious worship and spiritual life than men. But there is one area of religious life of a community, where women are not very welcome, where they are kept outside and away, namely to perform the priestly ministry, to officiate ritual worship for the community. Most of the world religions are reluctant to give equal role to women in ritual worship. This book looks into these issues from the perspectives of World Religions. Scholars and erudite experts from different religious traditions take up this issue within the framework of their tradition and express their views on women and worship and suggest means for amelioration. In the *Appendix* Dr. Elaine M. Dupuis gives a brilliant analysis of the history of women's movement in the West of the last two hundred years.

Contributors: Dr. Katherine Anne Harper (Jainism), Prof. Dr. Meera Chakravarty (Hinduism), Dr. Soonu J.Dhunjisha (Zoroastrianism), Priestess Akiko Kobayashi (Shintoism), Prof. Dr. Asher Finkel (Judaism), Dr. Eva M.Synek (Christian Churches and Canon Law), Prof. Dr. Mary Ann Foley (Catholic women religious), Ilham Allah Pallavicini (Islam), Dr. E.M.Uka (Traditional religions of Africa), Dr. Shashi Bala (Sikhism), Mrs. Zena Sorabjee, (Baha'i Faith) and Dr. Elaine M.Dupuis (analysis of the history of women's movement in the West of the last two hundred years.)

2. **Thomas Kadankavil (ed.), *Little Traditions and National Culture***, Bangalore: Journal of Dharma & Dharmaram Publications, 2000, pp. 352. Rs 250.00; US\$ 18.00. ISBN 81-86861-21-1.

This book is brought out on the assumption that India's hidden history of inclusive cosmopolitanism could be a better alternative for the political governance than the nationalism proposed by Hindutva. It is a nationalism based on one culture and one religion, centered on Hindu religion. The age-old civilization of India is pluralistic and India has been continuously sustained and nurtured by the diversity of its peoples, races, cultures, traditions and languages, and all these have been an integral part of one nation. The pluralistic spirit of Indian civilization cannot be sacrificed on the altar of a monolithic religious nationalism. The studies on different ethnic groups in this volume are meant to make a firm declaration that a nationalism that does not respect, acknowledge and foster the identities of India's diverse

peoples, cultures and religions, especially those of the subaltern groups and minorities has to be totally exposed, denounced and rejected.

Contributors: J.Susaimanickam, V.S.Varughese, George Koilparampil, Nirmal Minz, A.Bendangyabang AO, Manjoor Gopalan, Thomas Kadankavil, Anniyil Tharakan, Mary Marcellus, G.Patrick, J.Xavier Ilango, M.Victor Louis Anthuvan, Joseph Pathrapankal

3. **Antony Kalliath (ed.), *Pilgrims in Dialogue: A New Configuration of Religions for Millennium Community***, Bangalore: Journal of Dharma & Dharmaram Publications, 2000, pp.416. Rs. 300.00; US\$ 20.00. ISBN : 81-86861-23-8.

Pilgrims in Dialogue proposes a new paradigm and a new engagement of religions in the coming Third Millennium. The different articles emphasize the urgency of the religions of the world for a collective approach while addressing the concerns and problems of the humanity respecting and appreciating each one's identity and uniqueness in a pilgrimage context. A culture of synergy through networking and alliances worldwide has acquired momentum in various spheres of human enterprises like technology, industry, and science. In the scenario of religions, we need the Bible. We need the Koran. We need the Vedas and the Bhagavat Gita. But certainly not in their isolation. That is to say, the religions of the world have to collaborate consciously and deliberately in a pilgrimage ambience and horizon so that the course of history flows into a greater human solidarity and fellowship in justice and peace. What is urgently needed is a *dialogue religiosity* of pilgrims of world religions to offer a *Divine-Touch* to the present *High-Tech* culture.

Contributors: R.Panikar, Felix Wilfred, M.Amaladoss, Michael von Bruck, J.Pathrapankal, J.Soni, Darrol Bryant, A.Kalliath, Frans Wijzen, P.Kochappilly, George De Schrijver, Park Il-young, M.Mundadan

4. **Augustine Thottakara (ed.), *Eco-Dynamics of Religion: Thoughts for the Third Millennium***, Bangalore: Journal of Dharma & Dharmaram Publications, 2000, pp.328. Rs.250.00; US\$ 18.00. ISBN : 81-86861-20-3

This book has three main thrusts: (i) It deals with ecology and environmental issues. Ecology has become a very hot and passionate theme of discussion and debate not only among academicians and scientists, but also among, politicians, sociologists, economic experts, theologians, religious leaders and so on. This shows the urgency and importance of the issues involved. (ii) It deals with ecological issues from the perspectives of the religions of the world. Scholars and erudite experts from different religious traditions express their views on environmental crisis and suggest

means for betterment. (iii) The discussion is future oriented. It tries to elucidate the prospects, problems and challenges of the third millennium and tries to propose and propagate means for remedying the present crisis and dilemma.

Contributors are:: Prof. Dr. Thomas Manickam, cmi, (Ecosophy), Mrs. Prema Jayakumar (Hinduism), Dr. Augustine Thottakara (Vedanta), Mr. Adi F. Doctor (Zoroastrianism), Dr. Vincent Sekhar (Jainism), Dr. Hedwig Whale (Judaism), Prof. Dr. William Sweet (Christianity & Western Philosophy), Prof. Donal O'Mahony, ofm (Christianity), Priestess Akiko Kobayashi (Shintoism), Dr. Nkemakolam L. Emeghara (African religions), and Dr. A.K. Merchant (Baha'i Faith).

5. **Chackalackal Saju, *Euthanasia: An Appraisal of the Controversy Over Life and Death***, Bangalore: Dharmaram Publications, 2000, pp.92. Rs. 50.00; US\$ 5.00. ISBN: 81-86861-19-X

A compact but brief treatment of the issue of euthanasia. Present practices and various trends are reviewed, basing on which the author calls for halting the killing under the "cloak of mercy." "Saju Chackalackal's latest work on euthanasia is a systematic and admirable appraisal of the controversy over life and death. In this short but significant study he analyses in depth the question of euthanasia from its historical, philosophical, medical, and legal aspects, and concludes with a few commendable positive alternatives. In the context of euthanasia gaining more currency in the contemporary consumer society, what is urgent, he argues, is that we must cultivate an attitude of caring and respecting individual persons. Human life is a great gift and a magnificent mystery. Only a holistic approach can do justice to the dignity and dimensions of human life. Chackalackal's book on euthanasia is a timely contribution towards enlightening us on the question of euthanasia and enhancing human life" (Prof. Dr. Thomas Aykara, cmi, Director CIIS, Rome).

6. **Chackalackal Saju, *Stephen Hawking's Quest for a Theory of Everything***, Bangalore: Dharmaram Publications, 2000, pp. 90. Rs.50.00; US\$ 5.00. ISBN: 81-86861-18-1.

Here is an attempt to understand the nature, scope and implications of the 20th century world-renowned physicist Stephen Hawking's theory of everything. "Saju Chackalackal's book, *Stephen Hawking's Quest for a Theory of Everything*, is a very interesting and really remarkable study of the subject. Hawking's quest for totality through an integrated approach is really positive, says Chackalackal. But man being an existential interwovenness between matter and spirit, there is at the heart of his being freedom and unpredictability, an unpredictability applicable also to the universe that he lives in. The author rightly thinks it possibly futile to have a theory of

everything, as change is an inevitable derivative of reality both as a fact and as a mystery. Chackalackal's *Stephen Hawking's Quest for a Theory of Everything* is a very systematic study of great interest and importance" (Prof. Dr. Thomas Aykara, cmi, Director, CIIS, Rome).

7. **Kavungal Devis, *The Philosophical Foundation of Mahatma Gandhi's Vision of Sarvodaya (Welfare of All)***, Bangalore: Dharmaram Publications, 2000, pp. xxx+418. Rs. 360.00; US\$ 25.00. ISBN: 81-86861-14-9.

The struggles, problems, and anxieties, pains and joys, failures and successes, conflicts and alienations, hopes and dreams experienced in day-to-day life by human beings served as ground for Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) to seek liberation for himself and for others. In his quest for truth, he arrives at the conclusion that the ultimate cause of the problems and restlessness of human beings spring from the lack of faith in God. In the light of this conclusion, he puts forward his ideal of *sarvodaya* or the welfare of all, that is, persons living in harmony with nature, in communication with one another and with God. In this study the author tries to answer the question: does the *sarvodaya* ideal have a sound philosophical basis to promise human beings a meaningful and satisfying life? The originality of his work consists mainly in presenting systematically and coherently the Gandhian vision of *sarvodaya*, spelling out its philosophical foundation. The study is primarily based on the books, articles, letters, speeches and reports of interviews of Gandhi himself. In general, the author follows analytic-synthetic and critical methods.

8. **Jacob Parappally & Evelyn Monteiro (eds.), *Hope at the Dawn of a New Century***, Proceedings of the 22nd Annual Meeting of the Indian Theological Association, 24-28 April 1999, Bangalore: Dharmaram Publications, 2000, pp.vi+210. Rs 140.00; US\$ 9.00. ISBN: 81-86861-17-3.

Hope at the Dawn of a New Century is meant to evoke further discussion, search and transformation; discussion on how Christians can be effective witnesses of hope together with all humans of good will; search for more and more signs of God's hope in the world that it may lead to the personal transformation of those who are committed to fashion a new society of God's dream.

9. **Cleopatra CMC, *Poem of Life***, Enlarged Millennium Edition, Bangalore: Dharmaram Publications, 2000, pp.88. Rs.45.00; US\$ 3.00. ISBN: 81-86861-15-7.

Poems of Life is a vivid presentation of human experiences (realistic, crisp and mystical) startlingly simple in form and richly profound in thought, gripping one's heart

strings and making them reverberate. Numerous neat and meaningful drawings enhance the merit of the work.

10. **Paul Kalluveetil, cmi, *Vachanabhashyam, Vol.2, 2nd edition***, (Malayalam: "The Commentary on the Word of God"), Bangalore: Dharmaram Publications, 2000, pp.xx+596. Rs. 120.00. ISBN: 81-86861-14-9.

The second volume of the series "*Vachanabhashyam*" contains the commentary on the prophetic writings.

11. ***Sabha Eshyayil***, (Malayalam translation of the Post-Synodal Exhortation of Pope John Paul II *Ecclesia in Asia*), Translation by **Saji Kurian Kunnel, cmi** and **Antony Manalady, cmi**, Bangalore: Dharmaram Publications, 2000, pp.ix+144. Rs. 60.00.
12. **Joshi Kannookadan, cmi, *Upamakalute Jalakam*** (Malayalam: "The Window of the Parables": a creative interpretation of twelve parables of Jesus for the contemporary world), Bangalore: Dharmaram Publications, 2000, pp. 78. Rs.30.00.
13. **H.W. Schomerus, *Saiva Siddhanta. An Indian School of Mystical Thought***, Trans. Mary Law, ed. Humphrey Palmer, Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers, 2000, pp.xv+410. Rs.595.--. ISBN: 81-208-1569-6.

This work is originally written in German by H.W. Schomerus (1879-1945). The author gives a full documented account of Saiva Siddhanta and the work is even today an important reference book of this school of thought. 'Schomerus cites Siddhanta scriptures on each point. His book thus offers a systematic theology of the movement, from its own basic texts, many of which are not otherwise available in English'. Besides Introduction, Tables, References to scriptural passages, Glossary and Index, the book has eight chapters. The Introduction gives an account of the origin and development, scriptures and traditions of Saiva Siddhanta. The titles of the chapters are: "There are Several Substances", "The First Substance", "The Third Substance, Matter", "The Nature of the Soul", "Matter in Change", "Saving the Soul from the Matter", "Perfection" and "Conclusion". The work is indeed a very systematic treatise on Saiva Siddhanta, and would be definitely useful for students and teachers of this school of thought.

14. **William Buck, *Mahabharata***, (with an Introduction by B.A. van Nooten; illustrated by Shirley Triest), Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers, 2000, pp.xxiii+416. Rs. 195.--. ISBN: 81-208-1719-2.

With around 125000 verses, Mahabharata is perhaps the largest work and longest epic poem of the world. It, as is evident, narrates the story of two royal

families, who were closely related (cousins), namely, the Pandavas and the Kauravas. Sri Krishna, the full *avatara* of Lord Visnu, plays a vital role in the story of this Epic. The climax of the story is the great war between these two families in the battlefield of Kuruskshetra. The well-known *Bhagavadgita* is part of Mahabharata. Sections of this book like *Moksadharmanusasanam*, *Anugita*, etc. are also very important from the viewpoint of philosophy, ethics, religion, etc. There are numerous books which retell the story of Mahabharata in abridged form and as resumes. Rajagopalachari's Mahabharata is perhaps the most famous in this category. William Buck retells the story for the modern readers in this book. In twenty chapters he narrates the story in a very personal and interesting way. The numerous illustrations and a reference list of characters at the end are added attractions of this interesting work.

15. **William Buck, *Ramayana***, (with an Introduction by B.A. van Nooten; illustrated by Shirley Triest), Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers, 2000, pp.xxix+432. Rs. 195.--. ISBN: 81-208-1720-6.

Ramayana is one of the two Epics of India, the other being the Mahabharata. The Upanishads might be the very backbone of Indian philosophy, culture and perhaps even of religiosity. But the Epics and the Puranas supply the flesh and blood to Indian culture and Hinduism. The religions, beliefs, rituals, traditions, customs, art forms and familial and social practices of Hinduism are largely based on these texts. These treatises form the basis and source of countless literary works in all the languages of India. Ramayana tells the story of Rama, believed to be one of the incarnations of Lord Visnu. While Mahabharata is the story of the enmity between the brothers of two branches of one royal family, Ramayana is the story of strong fraternity between the brothers of one royal family. William Buck retells this gripping story in a very lucid and readable manner for the modern reader. In twenty-six chapters, divided into three parts the author narrates the story in a dramatic way. The numerous beautiful illustrations and the list of the characters are also interesting and useful.

16. **Chakravarthi V. Narasimhan, *The Mahabharata. An English Version Based on Selected Verses***, Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers, 1999, pp.xxix+254. Rs. 195.--. ISBN: 81-208-1673-0.

In this book the author tells the story of Mahabharata in the very words of Mahabharata. He selects key verses from each section of the Epic in such a way that the continuity and logical connection of the story are not broken. Thus he translates 4000 verses. In the translation the author took special care for the flow of the narration and the sensible conveyance of the meaning. Therefore, it is not a

literal translation. As the author himself states: "The purpose of the present work is to give a straightforward narrative account of the main theme of the Epic: the rivalry between the Pandavas and the Kuaravas. To some extent Rajagopalachari's book has the same purpose; its secondary purpose may have been perhaps to remind the average Indian of the glories of his country's classical heritage, of which the most colossal literary work is the Mahabharata". Genealogical tables, an index correlating the verses with the original Sanskrit text used in this work and a useful glossary supplement the work.

17. **Shifu Nagaboschi Tomio, *The Bodhisattva Warriors. The Origin, Inner Philosophy, History and Symbolism of the Buddhist Martial Art within India and China***, Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass Publishers, 2000, pp.xxv+530. Rs.395,--. ISBN: 81-208-1723-0.

'This unique study of the genesis and development of the earliest form of Buddhist self-defence practiced by Chuan Fa monks and mystics shows both the philosophical and physical basis of the skills developed and passed on to subsequent generations. ... The material is presented so readers can understand that what we think of as a competitive sport is really a meditation mandala in action'. The subject matter is treated in different sections like: 'Beginning the Study', 'The Mandala of Elements', 'The Mandala of Human Characteristics', 'The Mandala of Symbolism', 'The Mandala of Experience', 'The Mandala of Healing', 'The Mandala of Movement'. In more than 100 pages, eight appendices are given, which treat a variety of subjects like 'The Main Chinese Buddhist Dynasties', 'Chronology of the Main Buddhist Sutras', 'Development of Early Indian Buddhist Sects', etc. It also gives translations of some Chinese texts, which are pertinent to the theme of the book. Glossary and Index and numerous illustrations (128 in all) enhance the merit and value of the work.

18. **Takeuchi Yoshinori (ed.), *Buddhist Spirituality. Later China, Korea, Japan and the Modern World***, World Spirituality An Encyclopedic History of Religious Quest Series, Vol. 9, New York: The Crossroad Publishing Company, 1999, pp.xxiii+550. \$ 34.95. ISBN: 0-8245-1595-1 (hc); ISBN: 0-825-1596-X (pbk).

The series called "World Spirituality. An Encyclopedic History of the Religious Quest" intends to bring out twenty-five volumes on the spirituality of different world religions, traditional religions, archaic believes, spiritualities of the aboriginals, etc. The present work is the ninth volume of the series, and the second and final volume on Buddhist spirituality. As the title of the book indicates, this work covers the Buddhist spirituality of China (later periods), Korea, Japan and the modern Buddhist world. The book contains thirty-two essays written by eminent scholars, and these essays are arranged in six parts. A wide range of themes are discussed. The origin

of Ch'an in China and Ch'an spirituality, the Silla Buddhist spirituality of Korea, the Saicho, Kukai, Kamakura, Pure Land, Honen, Shinran and Nichiren forms of Buddhist religiosity and spirituality of Japan, the Zen Buddhism of Japan, the Kyoto school of Buddhism, etc. are some of the themes treated in this book. Name index, subject index and glossary of technical terms are also given at the end of the work.

19. **James F. Keenan S.J. (with Jon D. Fuller SJ, Lisa Sowle Cahill and Kevin Kelly) (ed.), *Catholic Ethicists on HIV/AIDS Prevention*, New York-London: Continuum International Publishing Group, 2000. \$24.95. ISBN:0-8264-1230-0.**

The Introduction gives an account of the efforts by Catholic ethicists to prevent HIV/AIDS. It tries to say that 'there is a subtle but widely held position that does not oppose the use of condoms to prevent sexual transmission of HIV.' Then the book takes up case studies. Altogether twenty-five cases are critically studied. Catholic experts in ethics and moral theology give their opinion and the teaching of the Church from tradition to these case studies and try to demonstrate that apparent obstacles can be explained. 'in the book's second half, seven internationally known ethicists offer theological resources that can further galvanize Catholic participation in HIV prevention. Using Scripture, the ethical tradition, and the legacy of Catholic bioethics, they address topics ranging from feminism and justice to sexuality and the common good'. At the end there is also a detailed index.

20. **Pierre Gaudette, *Mutations Culturelles et Transcendance a l'Aube du XXI^e Siecle*, Quebec: LTP: Laval Theologique et Philosophique, Universite Laval, 2000, pp.viii+238. \$29.95. ISSN: 0023-9054.**

This book is supplementary issue of the review *Laval Theologique et Philosophique* published by the University of Laval, Quebec, Canada. The book contains the papers and texts presented at a symposium organized by the Pontifical Council for Culture in collaboration with the government of Quebec in Quebec on 11-14 March 2000. The papers are presented by Charels Taylor ("A Place for the Transcendence"), Fernand Harvey ("Problematique"), Raymond Weber, Raymond Lemieux, Roger Fauroux, Daniel Mercure, Yves Boisvert, Thomas de Koninck, Jacques Racine, Marc Plechat, Jaime Antunez Aldunate, David Seljak, Francois Bousquet, Robert Mager, Jacques Grand'Maison, Michel Dubost, Anne Fortin, Cardinal Paul Poupard, Piere Lucier and Andre Charron.

21. ***Shepherds for an Information Age. An Experimental Resource and Training Manual for the Education of Salesians of Don Bosco in Media and Social Communications*, compiled by Boscom-India: The All India Federation of**

Salesians of Don Bosco in Media and Social Communications, Bombay: 2000, pp.xiv+418. Rs. 375,-; US\$ 20.00.

This book gives practical and doctrinal guidelines for social communication for the students who are undergoing the different stages of religious formation, especially in Order of the Salesians of Don Bosco. Effective communication is an important prerequisite for a priest. These skills are to be imparted during the different stages of priestly formation and education. The work, prepared by team of experts, is an effective tool for imparting communication skills to the trainees.

22. **Farish A. Noor (ed.), *Terrorising the Truth. The Shaping of Contemporary Images of Islam and Muslims in Media, Politics and Culture. A Report on the International Workshop Organised by Just World Trust (JUST)***, Penang: Just World Trust, 1997, pp.xix+181. ISBN: 983 9861 07-7.

The image of Islam is distorted and demonized by the media of the West: this is the basic message of the book. The words of Prof. Chandra Muzaffar are relevant here: "It is the powerful who determine who is a terrorist and who is not. It is the powerful who control the discourse on terrorism. They have ensured that the discourse will be in their favour". Some of the themes of the book are: "The Crusade Revisited: The Global Campaign Against Islamic World", "Islam and/in the West: The Revenge of a Distorted History", "Beyond the Clash of Civilizations: A Pragmatic Approach to Confront the Demonisation of the Image of Islam".

23. ***Human Wrongs. Reflections on Western Global Dominance and its Impact Upon Human Rights***, Published by Just World Trust, Penang: 1996, pp.v+288. ISBN: 983-9861-04-2.

As the title of the book indicates, this work tries to point out the wrongs done by the economically, militarily, mass-media-wise powerful West to the rest of humanity. Some of the themes discussed will make the content of the book clearer: "Crimes against Humanity, the Dominant West's Human Rights Record", "Political Dimensions of Northern Global Domination and its Consequences for the Rights of Five-sixths of Humanity", "Northern Domination of the Global Economy and Some Human Rights Implications".

24. **Sulak Sivaraksa and Chandra Muzaffar, *Alternative Politics for Aisa. A Buddhist-Muslim Dialogue***, Petaling Jaya: International Movement for a Just World, 1999, pp.xii+120. ISBN: 983-9861-11-5.

A Buddhist-Muslim dialogue was held in Penang from 11 to 13 October 1996 between Chandra Muzffar and Sulak Sivaraksa. The book contains the transcript of their analysis on the effect of globalisation on Asian Buddhist and Muslim societies,

and their views of the alternatives. Some of the issues discussed are: 'Are the profound values and worldviews embodied in the religions and cultures of Asia capable of shaping a different kind of politics – a politics that is more concerned with justice and humanity rather than power and position?' 'Are these values so deeply buried within layers and layers of feudal history and colonial psychology that they are incapable of informing and influencing contemporary politics?' 'Is politics such that whatever the religious or cultural values that obtain in a particular society, power and the dictates of power will determine that politicians the world over will invariably behave in a certain manner?'

25. **Muddathir 'Abd al-Rahim, *Islam and Non-Muslim Minorities***, Penang: Just World Trust, 1997, pp.24. ISBN: 983-9861-8-5.
26. **Stanley L. Jaki, *Means to Message. A Treatise on Truth***, Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999, pp.vi+233. US\$. 22.00. ISBN: 0-8028-4651-3.

This is basically a book on Christian philosophy and deals with epistemology and metaphysics in an original way. 'Beginning with the axiom that every philosophy is a message and that every message is conveyed by some tangible means (usually the printed medium – book), Jaki here makes the case that for a minimum of consistency, the philosopher's message should fully account for the reality of the means. He then unpacks the consequences of this axiom for the main topics in philosophy.'

27. **Dr. J. Thachil, *An Initiation to Indian Philosophy***, Alwaye: Pontifical Institute of Theology and Philosophy, 2000, pp.xxiv+466. Rs. 295,-; US\$ 18.00.

The present work is a very systematically and scientifically written textbook of Indian philosophy, and is a very effective tool to be initiated into the complicated and amorphous world of Indian thought and philosophy. Beginning from the general characteristics of Indian philosophy, the book takes the reader through the entire gamut of the history of Indian philosophy, from the Vedas down to the theistic schools of Vedanta and Saivism. The non-Vedic systems like Buddhism, Jainism and Carvaka are also adequately treated. The author, who has been teaching Indian philosophy for quite some years, is well equipped to write such an excellent work. This work would definitely be useful to teachers and students of universities, seminaries and other centres of higher education.

28. **Klaus K. Klostermaier, *A Short Introduction to Hinduism***, Oxford: Oneworld, 1998, pp.xiv+178. US\$ 13.95. ISBN: 1-85168-163-9.

This work is published in the Oneworld series on world religions. Hinduism with its bewildering diversities of beliefs and practices is not easy to be treated in a

small volume like this. Klostermaier, who is scholar in Indian religions, was able to give a clear, succinct but comprehensive presentation of all the important elements of Hinduism in the present work. The book very ably explains the essence of the different groups, sects and religions within Hinduism, the main schools of Indian philosophy, the salient features of Indian/Hindu culture, the social and familial life of the Hindus, etc. The numerous photographs, charts and drawings, index, bibliography after each section, etc. enhance the merit of the work.

29. **Klaus K. Klostermaier, *A Concise Encyclopedia of Hinduism***, Oxford: Oneworld, 1998, pp.ix+242. US\$ 16.95. ISBN: 1-85168-175-2.

Short descriptions of religious, philosophical, mythical and historical concepts, persons, places, books, rituals, gods, events and objects related to Hindu religion, philosophy, culture and history are given in the present work in the alphabetical order. Both Sanskrit and English concepts are explained. 'The encyclopedia features the major systems of Hindu thought, covers figures from Manu to Gandhi and includes locations from Ramesvaram, on the southernmost tip of India, to Himalayas in the north'. The work is fully illustrated with numerous maps, photographs and drawings. The scholarly introduction and the thematic index are also very useful.

30. **Srinivasa Rao, *Perceptual Error. Indian Theories***, Honolulu-Hawaii: University of Hawaii Press, 1998, pp.xii+152. US\$ 20.00. ISBN: 0-8248-1958-6.

Almost all the systems of Indian philosophy deliberate on the phenomenon of error in the process of knowledge through perception. Some systems like Mimamsa declares that all knowledge is intrinsically valid and true. Then how would one explain the fact of error. Is it because of the defects of the sense organs? Is it simply partial grasping of the objects through the senses? All these questions are dealt with in this book. In nine chapters the work tries to delineate the doctrines on perceptual error of the different schools of Indian philosophy. Bibliography, glossary and index are added attractions.

31. **Roy W. Perrett, *Hindu Ethics. A Philosophical Study***, Honolulu-Hawaii: University of Hawaii Press, 1998, pp.ix+107. US\$ 28.00. ISBN: 0-8248-2085-1.

'This philosophical study offers a representation of the logical structure of classical Hindu ethics and argues for the availability of at least the core of this ethical system to Westerners.' Besides the introduction and conclusion, the four chapters of the book are: "Facts, Values and the Bhagavadgita", "Saints and the Supramoral", "Living Right and Living Well in Hindu Ethics", and "The Law of Karma".