

## BOOK REVIEW

**Victor Segesvary**, *Inter-civilizational Relations and the Destiny of the West. Dialogue or Confrontation?* Studies in World Peace Vol. 7, Lewiston, Queenstown, Lampeter: The Edwin Mellen Press, 1998 pp. Viii+354. (ISBN 0-7734-8327-6).

At the advent of pluralistic world of culture, the western civilization is under constraints to recognize that its universalistic worldview is gradually collapsing, although it seems to survive due to the influence of science and technology in the form of 'globalization' of western ways of life. The non-western cultures have emerged to stay in field. The author therefore proposes dialogue with them rather than confrontation. The concluding ninth chapter summarizes the finds of the book in nine conclusions. Of these, the third conclusion about the rationality is as follows: the existence of different "patterns of reasoning" and the corresponding relativistic reading of reality leads us to affirm that each civilization has its own meaningful rationality. Thus, no dialogue between various co-existing civilizations is possible without the mutual acknowledgement of their respective authentic rationality." (p.301). This conclusion amply states where the author and the book stand. This is a very informative and refreshing work at a time when we are witnessing numerous cross-cultural encounters.

**Dr. Thomas Kadankavil.**

**Jack Parsons**, *Human Population Competition. A Study of the Pursuit of Power through Numbers*, Symposium Series 46A, Lewiston, Queenstown, Lampeter: The Edwin Mellen Press, 1998, pp.xvii+432. (ISBN 0-7734-8372-1).

Population growth is a sociological and moral problem for the modern states. The book under review regards population competition as a tabooed subject for many. The magnitude of the problem is depicted in the opening citation: "The picture of the period ahead is almost a nightmare. The population explosion will have tremendous repercussions on the region's physical resources such as land and essential social services ... with weak and fragile socio-political systems, the very sovereignty of African states will be at stake."

Aldous Huxely in his *Brave New World Revisited* gives an enlightening account of over-population. On the first Christmas day the population of our planet was about 250 million. When the pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth Rock in the sixteenth century, the human numbers climbed only to a little more than 500 million. In 1931 it stood just under 2000 million. Today it is bordering on 6000 million. Just in the span of 70 years the population has increased three times. This points to an alarming future for humankind.

Over-population leads to dictatorship, scarcity of available resources and over-organization, lowering of the quality of human life. No author or statesman can offer us satisfactory solutions to the problems caused by over-population and Jack Parson's work is another attempt to tackle this problem in a more intelligible way. It is certainly a welcome addition to the field of demography.

It is to be noted here that this work has been awarded *the Adele Mellen Prize* for its distinguished contribution to scholarship.

**Dr. Thomas Kadankavil**

- (1) *Nyaya-vartika-tatparyaparisuddhi* of Udayanacharya, Vol. IV, Nyaya-chatur-granthika Series, pp.709. ISBN 81-85636-28-1.
- (2) *Nyaya-vartika-tatparya-tika* of Vachaspati Misra, Vol. III, pp.604. ISBN 81-85536-26-5

**ed. Ananthlal Thakur**, New Delhi: Indian Council of Philosophical Research, 1996.

These two Sanskrit publications which are to be referred together are the final parts of the four-volume series of the ancient phase of classical Indian works on logic. The project of publication of classical works on logic started in 1953, and these two volumes are last works of this project. The editor has spared no efforts in making the publication a scholarly work.

Indian classical logic has its roots in Vedic works. The development of Indian logic has two distinct phases. One phase is the stream of thought coming in the tradition of the sage Gautama (Gotama) with his work *Nyaya-sutra*. This work was composed in the pre-Christian era and has been studied extensively all throughout the history. The system of philosophy based on this *Nyaya-sutra* is called *Nyaya-darsana*. The other stream of development of ancient classical Indian logic flourished along with the study of Sanskrit

grammar. This stream was adopted by all the orthodox and heterodox systems of philosophy to suit their needs. Thus Buddhist logic is distinct from Jain logic or logical approach adopted by Mimamsa or Vedanta schools of philosophy. The two books under review belong to the first stream thought.

Later writers have subsequently commented upon the Nyaya-sutra of sage Gautama. The first two elaborations, namely, *Nyaya-bhasya* and *Nyaya-vartika*, have been published as Vol. I and II of the above series. The subsequent commentaries are *Nyaya-tatparya-vartika* (Vol. III) by Vachaspati Misra (ca. 9<sup>th</sup> century CE) and *Nyaya-vartika-tatparya-parisuddhi* (Vol. IV) by Udayanacharya (ca. 10<sup>th</sup> century CE).

These four volumes are to be put together as they are written in a dovetailed structure, namely, each subsequent work elaborating on all the previous works. These commentaries together cover a period of about one thousand years of development of an ancient classical Indian logic. This period covering the pre-Christian era upto the 10th century CE is also the time when other systems of philosophy, both heterodox and orthodox, developed and saw various phases of growth. The Buddhist logic which had seen its zenith during the first five centuries of CE, saw a decline in the subsequent period. By the 10<sup>th</sup> century CE Buddhist logic had been overpowered by the Vedantins and the great Nyaya works. The above two works covering the period of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries support this fact.

The publishers and the editor deserve our appreciation for having brought out these books on Nyaya. Hopefully the collated edition of these four works together in the standard form in which Sanskrit works with multiple commentaries are published, will come out soon. Useful translation and summary analysis of thought development in English language could be added as a useful appendix to these works.

**Dr. B.V. Venkata Krishna**

**Evans A. Craig and Flint W. Peter (editors),** *Eschatology, Messianism, and the Dead Sea Scrolls* (Studies in the **Dead Sea Scrolls** and Related Literature), Michigan, Grand Rapids: W.B. Erdmans Publishing Co., 1997, pp.xii+176; \$ 20.00.

This scholarly work belongs to the series "Studies in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Related Literature", edited by Martin G. Abegg and Peter W. Flint. Since the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the biblical studies have

got new vigour and fresh authenticity. Recently the unpublished texts from Qumran Cave 4 were released which created commotion among the scholarly circles and in the popular press. Hereto held views were questioned, revised or even dismissed without uncritical haste. The results of the solid scholarship are not yet made fully available. Reliable critical editions of the Qumran texts are only nearing completion. Now the general editors of the series of the 'Studies on the Dead Sea Scrolls and Related Literature' promise to make the latest and best Dead Sea Scroll' scholarship accessible to the scholars and students. The projected studies are intended to clarify how the Qumran texts revise and help shape our understanding of the formation of the Bible and the historical development of Judaism and Christianity. The present volume opens up such a project.

The book comprises of eight essays by outstanding scholars in the field, preceded by an introduction and followed by a concluding discussion by editors. The essays deal with the Old Testament foundations of Messianism, the figure of Daniel at Qumran, the Teacher of Righteousness, the Expectation of the End in the Dead Sea Scrolls, a Study on Moses' Birth Story, Psalm 72's Contribution to the Messianic Ideal, Jesus and Dead Sea Scrolls, Throne-chariot Mysticism in Qumran and in Paul, and Aspects of Johannine Messianism. It is interesting to note that these essays originated at a conference for a lay audience. The symposium was well attended by ordinary people. And this showed the immense interest the public had in ancient documents from Qumran, which are important in determining how to understand early Christian claims about Jesus as Messiah. The speakers helped to clarify why the Dead Sea Scrolls are important for the study of Christian origins and the New Testament. The enthusiasm engendered by the talks is reflected in their active participation in the discussion. Selected bibliography and indexes enhance the usefulness of the symposium in this book form.

Future expectation and a hope for a better world in which God reigns is the foundation of Old Testament. Thus the OT writers spoke of a golden age of peace righteousness and prosperity. This expectation which refers to the last period of history, is understood as prophetic eschatology and apocalyptic. These two forms have many traits in common. Still they defer in the outlook. Anyhow towards the end of Old Testament period, eschatological hope came to be linked with the expectation of a Messiah (anointed one), who would

usher in the promised new age. The present volume contributes to our knowledge of eschatological Messianism with particular reference to the Dead Sea Scrolls, which originated during the second century BCE.

The present volume deals with several aspects of eschatological Messianism. The first two essays concentrate on Messianism in the Old Testament. The next three essays are devoted to the development of eschatological or messianic ideas in the inter-testamental period. The last three essays study aspects of eschatology and Messianism in the New Testament with a focus on the teaching of Jesus and Paul and how the Dead Sea Scrolls illuminate them.

The authors have done a great service to the contemporary scholarship in presenting a balanced study of early Jewish and Christian Messianism and eschatology.

**Prof. Paul Kalluveetil**