

BOOK REVIEWS

Mary Panthapallil, S.H., *Mary, the Type of the Church in the Johannine Writings : A Biblico - Theological Analysis*. Kottayam: Oriental Institute of Religious Studies India Publications, 1996, pp. 274.

This solid work consists of eight chapters. After a general introduction, in chapter I, the author gives an elaborate historical survey of the development of Mariology from the Patristic period upto our time. In the second chapter, Mary is presented as the believer and type of the believing community, by an exegetical analysis of the text Jn 2.1.12. The third chapter exposes Mary as "The Woman", Second Eve, who is the type of the redeemed humanity. Here the author concentrates on the "hour" of Jesus and the mystery of his incarnation. In the fourth chapter Mary is viewed as "the Woman", the collective Bride, the type of the people of God. Here the author analyses Jn 19.25-27 and shows that Mary is the realization of the Mother-Zion and the Church. Chapter V gives exegetical analysis of several Johannine texts such as Rev 12.1-17; Jn 19.25-27; 16.16-33; 20.19-23; 14.1-3,23 and 15.11, and establishes the truth that Mary the Mother of Jesus Christ is the type of the Church. In chapter VI, analysing Jn 19.25-27 and other allied Johannine texts, the author shows that Mary is the Mother of all believers. In chapter VII, the author, by analysing Jn. 1.12-13; Rev 14.1-5; 12.2-5, 17, explains the meaning of Mary being the Virgin-Mother. The final chapter shows Mary as the type of the pilgrim people of God.

This work, with its scientific methodology, unravels the mystery of Mary enshrined in the Johannine tradition. It sheds light on the inner meaning and function of the Church. It reinstates the authentic position of Mary in the Church, which was in the past either exaggerated or belittled due to a lack of scientific exegetical knowledge of the Bible. This work, however, highlights the typological importance of Mary for a true understanding of the Church and christian discipleship. Thus, this book is undoubtedly a valuable contribution to the study of Mariology in our times.

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John B. Chethimattam *Experience and Philosophy*. Bangalore : Dharmaram Publications, Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, 1996, pp.xii+312, Rs. 360.00; US\$ 40.00.

Dr. John B. Chethimattam, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Fordham University, New York, and Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bangalore, has added one more interesting book to his credit explaining his own vision of an experiential "philosophical pilgrimage". Swimming along the "stream of consciousness" had been a favourite philosophical exercise for Prof. Chethimattam. Ever since he published his first philosophical treatise, *Consciousness and Reality* (An Indian Approach to Metaphysics, Bangalore, 1967), Prof. Chethimattam was consistently developing the theme of consciousness as the central point of his discussions and dialogues. The volume under review seems to be a summit of this long search and research. It is titled *Experience and Philosophy*, although "Philosophy as Experience" would have been a better title expressing comprehensively what Prof. Chethimattam is discussing and defending throughout this book. The book, however, makes a fascinating reading to those who are well initiated in the Western and Eastern schools of metaphysical discourse on the experience of Reality. It contains the lectures he gave at Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, the first of the series of the "Dharma Endowment Lectures" instituted in the Faculty of Philosophy in December 1994.

In the volume Prof. Chethimattam demonstrates his amazing capacity of synthesising the numerous strands of philosophical reflections of both the West and the East into a unified vision under the central theme of Consciousness which is partly experienced by intuitive thinkers, while itself transcends all limitations of the living and experiencing contexts of the philosophers; and this transcendence ultimately indicates that Consciousness as such is the Ultimate Reality which encompasses the thinking subject, thinking itself, the object of thought and thought as such. "Complementarity" is the often repeated referent in the synthetic exercise of Prof. Chethimattam, although he is fully aware that every-contrary strands of thinking cannot be gratuitously graced with the smothering touch of a dialogical complementarity. Hence he is sharply critical about a number of divergent views that attempted to bypass the Reality of Consciousness altogether.

The texture of the complementarity of various philosophical investigations according to Prof. Chethimattam is the "lived experience of people, made available in every nook and corner of the world through cybernatic explosion and the shared human consciousness as the one medium of interaction" (P. xiii). So this book "is a search to find out how shared human experience leads to new dimensions in philosophical thinking" (Preface, p. xiii).

The content is divided into eight chapters of which chapter one is a comprehensive introduction towards a masterly exposition of the central theme of Consciousness, the experiential ground of all realities, the common basis of both scientific and philosophical investigations. "Life - World and Philosophy" is the title of the second chapter. It contains a survey in clear logical sequence of the living contexts of philosophising from Desacartes to Habermas. This chapter focuses on the hermeneutical phenomenologies of Edmund Husserl, Heidegger, Merleau Ponty and others who reflected on the dynamics of human consciousness evolved in response to the lived experience of people of their times. Topics such as the "Metaphysics of Presence", Experience and Consciousness', 'Philosophy of Negation' etc, are of exciting reading. Chapter three deals with the "Life-World" in Indian Philosophy": 'The Samkhyan life-world', 'The Buddhist life-world' 'The Rationality of Non-dualism' and 'The Rationality of Kaivalya and Nirvana reflect the author's perceptive mind and his constructive critical attitude to some of the most fundamental tenets of the philosophical schools of India.

Chapter four on "Mythical Consciousness" highlights the significance of the pre-predicative and pre-logical constructs of human existence, experience and articulation. Mythical thought is so primordial to human culture, morality and faith experience, that a society without their lived and living myths of the ancestors would be a culturally rootless people. In many ways Prof. Chethimattam brings to focus the function of myths as "Creative Memory" of a people which sustains in meaningful symbolic channels the living stream of consciousness of the lived experience of the fore fathers of a cultural heritage.

Chapter five deals with "Radical Hermeneutics", the various schools of interpretations and approaches to the problem of meaning. "The Coordinates of Consciousness" is the title of Chapter

six; 'Anthropological and Sociological Experience', 'Evolutionary Perspective on Sociology and Religion,' 'The Aesthetic Dimension of Social Consciousness' and other sub-titles elaborate in detail the periferries of the centre of human consciousness. Chapter seven deals with 'Moral Consciousness and Experiential Approach to Morality', and Chapter eight concludes the whole discussion setting "Experience as the End of Philosophy",. The Indian idea of Experience, *Anubhava*, as the *telos* of all rational investigations as established by Sri Sankaracarya has been well taken care of by the author in giving an Indian key towards the harmonious understanding of the variety of philosophical insights of all thinkers the world over.

Dr. Thomas Manickam

BOOKS RECEIVED

Joseph Patmury, *Sacred Link, Modes of Communicating with the Divine*. Bangalore: Asian Trading Corporation, 1996, pp. x + 151, Rs. 90.00.

Michael W. Myers, *Let the Cow Wander: Modeling the Metaphors in Veda and Vedanta*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1995, pp. x + 129, Rs. \$ 15.00.

Swami Harshananda, *Sri Sankarabhagavatpada's ATMABODHA*. Bangalore: Ramakrishana Math, 1996, pp. 40, Rs. 5.00.

R. H Lesser, *The Holy Spirit and Charismatic Renewal*. Bangalore: Asian Trading Corporation, 1996, pp. xvi + 270, Rs. 90.00

Hendrik Vroom, *No Other Gods*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996, pp. viii + 174, \$ 18.00 (Paperback)

Stanley J. Samartha, *Between Two Cultures*. Geneva: WCC Publications, 1996, pp. xv + 202

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