



FRANCIS VINEETH VADAKETHALA CMI

Footprints of a Philosopher-Theologian Mystic

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A Life of Integration



As a man of cultural refinement and spiritual enlightenment, Fr. Vineeth has impressed me from the early years of my life. His openness to the world of wisdom enabled him to receive from all streams of thought and helped him to nurture a holistic vision of spirituality and religiosity to make the essential Christian spiritual vision convincing and attractive. His source was, no doubt, Jesus and the Gospel, but he employed the immense resources of Indian wisdom to make the message and values of Jesus flow profusely in the Indian soil, through his theological and spiritual approach of inter-religiosity.

Fr. Vineeth held his head high among the great spiritual scholars and masters of Dharmaram College Bengaluru in the post-Vatican II times. I deem it my great fortune to be in Dharmaram during those times to learn from Masters like Fr. Vineeth. He used to carry us along in the ceaseless flow of his thoughts and in-

spirations, which always presented to the listeners a holistic world-view. A spiritual life of integration was his consistent theme. While explaining the techniques of integration, he employed images from Indian spiritual traditions as additional resources to enlighten the Biblical wisdom. He did not find any impropriety in seeing Jesus the Rabbi as Jesus the Guru. He could understand the message of Jesus in the categories of Indian wisdom, which he effectively shared to his students.

For example, to explain the spirituality of self-integration, he used to employ the “*panchakosha*” theory of Consciousness layers in the *Taittiriya Upanishad* which came handy to him to drive home the notion of integration. For me, his message came from the core of his own *Anandamaya* layer of Consciousness. In this depiction I have tried to show this idea graphically. He attained the integration of all the five layers of Consciousness in his person

Fr. Vineeth has been faithful to his call and has made use of his talents to multiply it through his innumerable disciples. Now he has received his reward being invited to “enter into the joy of his master” (Mt 25:23).