



FRANCIS VINEETH VADAKETHALA CMI

Footprints of a Philosopher-Theologian Mystic

Johnson Valiyakulathil CMI, Vicar Provincial A Man of Knowledge and Unique Wisdom



"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you" (James 4:10).

The above verse fits well to Father Vineeth as he constantly practised self-effacement in every walk of his life and, thus, he was 'vineethan', a man endowed with humility. His lifestyle asserted that he was always unassuming and

modest in his life and approach. Though he garbed in very modest clothing, he maintained elegance and neatness. His ashram lifestyle, with its simple food and living, made him healthy and he was totally content as it was his preference for such a simple way of life. Being a great Acharya, with two doctorates to his credit both in philosophy and in theology, he was able to draw and inspire his sishyas with his divine

intuition and exhortations. He never used any jargons in his talks rather they were in simple and ordinary language that anyone could comprehend easily. His guided meditations on themes such as Morningstar, Sat Guru, and Panchabhootha were remarkable and the participants were taken to the spiritual realm experiencing the divine knowledge. He authored many books on prayer, meditation, and Blessed Virgin Mary from his deep spiritual insights; but he preferred his prayer to be too simple, like gazing and looking long hours with a smiling face on the crucifix, tabernacle, and the portrait of Blessed Mother, and that sight was inspiring and divine for the onlookers. He had a special affiliation and devotion to Mother Mary and Saint Theresa of Lisieux. He always kept a small photo of the seven Franciscan missionary sisters, who were martyred in China, and cherished special devotion and love for them. Father Vineeth, a man of knowledge and unique wisdom, found his real joy and happiness in sharing the wisdom he gained to everyone.

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In a nutshell, Father Vineeth, with whom I lived for three years, was endowed with the following qualities as the letters of his name stand for:

- V = Virtuous, voracious, and visionary
- I = Idyllic, industrious, and illustrious
- N = Natural, noble, and numinous

- E = Enigmatic, enlightened, and esthetical
- E = Elated, enthusiastic, and esteemed
- T = Tempean, tranquil, and transcendent
- H = Harmonious, humble, and heralded
- Oh, great and venerable soul, intercede for us!



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സി.എം.ഐ. സഭയിൽ നവസന്യാസകാലം മുതൽ എന്റെ ബാച്ചുകാരനായിരുന്നു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട വിനീതച്ചൻ. ഞങ്ങളുടെ ബാച്ചിലെ ബഞ്ചമിൻ. അന്നേ പഠനത്തിലും ബുദ്ധിശക്തിയിലും മികവുകാട്ടിയിരുന്നു. ബാച്ചിൽ എപ്പോഴും ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതൽ മാർക്ക് വാങ്ങിയിരുന്നു വിനീതച്ചൻ. ഉള്ളതു പറയാനും, അതു സങ്കോചം കൂടാതെ പറയാനും അദ്ദേഹം ധൈര്യം കാട്ടിയിരുന്നു. പട്ടമേറ്റയുടെനെ വൈദികർക്കു വേണ്ടി ഒന്നോ രണ്ടോ ധ്യാനം നടത്തിയിരുന്നുവെന്നാണ് എന്റെ ഓർമ്മ. പിന്നീട് ഉപരിപഠനശേഷം കൂടുതലും ഭാരതീയ രീതിയിലുള്ള ധ്യാനശൈലികളാണ് അദ്ദേഹം തുടർന്നത്. പിന്നീട് പലയിടത്തും വച്ച് കാണുകയും, ഉള്ളൂതൂറുന്നു സംസാരിക്കുകയും, ഉറക്കെ ചിരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തതോർക്കുന്നു. മുമ്പേ കടന്നു പോയ ഇളയ സഹോദരവൈദികന് എന്റെ പ്രണാമം! പ്രാർത്ഥനകൾ!