



FRANCIS VINEETH VADAKETHALA CMI

Footprints of a Philosopher-Theologian Mystic

Cyriac Kanichai CMI, Carmel, Chalakudy

Master and Mentor, Thinker and Tirthamkara



In his book, *Discovery of Being*, Fr. Vineeth has set out to unveil the Mystery of Being, temporalized and spatialized in beings, bemoaning, in 'ex-is-tential' fear and anxiety, their worldly fate to be doomed to the void of death. It being his doctoral thesis on the 'Fundamentalontologie' of Martin Heidegger, and,

therefore, unlikely to be the direct intent of the author, though, we in India may, by reading between the lines, decipher in the afore-said work a good number of latent clues for evolving a corrective, clear and compelling, of Heidegger's well-known negative stance towards Indian Philosophy and Oriental Mysticism (see Heidegger, *An Introduction to Metaphysics*).

Equally conversant with and competent in Western and Eastern philosophical traditions, Fr. Vineeth's

remarkable insight and ability in interpreting the intricate German coinages of Heidegger by plausibly juxtaposing them with the classic concepts of Indian philosophy will undoubtedly stand us in good stead in this regard.

The overall tenor of Fr. Vineeth's critical and constructive response to Heidegger's metaphysical conception vis-à-vis our Indian perception in regard to the dialectically intertwined relationship (*samavaya*) between the temporal and the eternal could be arguably articulated as follows: The world of beings, un-REAL yet objective (*maya*), are in an unbroken process (*pralaya*) of "flying over" (*ueberfliegen*) to what is REAL and Trans-objective (*Das Uebergegenstaendliche*), making themselves thereby a pointer and portal to the PLENUM (*purnam*), to the tajjalan (Origin-Middle-End); to the TRUTH of all that is true (*satyasya Satyam*), to the Being of all that are in being (*Das Sein der (S)seienden*) as their Existence-bound, Existence-directed, Existence-oriented Ground and Goal.

FRANCIS VINEETH VADAKETHALA CMI



Footprints of a Philosopher-Theologian Mystic



One may safely aver that such is the very nucleus of Fr. Vineeth's philosophico-mystical vision of Reality which he went on explaining and elaborating in his further writings, in many a case pointing to Christ as the Pleroma/Consummation of the resurgent phases of srsti-sthiti-laya of the cosmic reality.

Fr. Vineeth had distinguished himself all through his academic life as an outstanding scholar, researcher, writer, teacher and preacher especially in the field of Indian Christian Theology and Spirituality. His

contribution to the formation of Bharatiya Puja as well as his great services to the DVK as the President and Professor of Philosophy therein will be long remembered. To crown it all, he has ever been very dear and near to all he came in contact with, especially the CMIs.

Kudos to Fr. Vineeth, the Doctor Mysticus of the CMI! You have created a niche for yourself in our hearts as an outshining Pater et Magister of the Art and Science of Indo-Christian Geist! You are indeed a revered Guru not only of the Ashram you founded in Bangalore but also an erudite and exalted Acharya for all of us to learn from and follow!

Thomas Mampra CMI, CMI Novitiate, Punalur

Gem of a Person



While Fr. Francis Vineeth was doing theology at Dharmaram College, I was doing philosophy there. I doubt if I had ever spoken to him then; after our doctorate in Louvain when Fr. Thomas Aykara and myself went to England, we met him at Campion Hall. Fr. Aykara and he did their Doctorate there at Oxford University and myself at Cambridge. During those years we had met several times for discussion or for monthly recollections. I used to like his ideas on Indian Philosophy and Christian Theology and a possible integration of both on several points. Then, we had lived at Dharmaram during the initial stage of Vidyavanam in Bangalore. I used to visit him there and appreciate his new initiative and ideas. Two years ago, I also visited him at Mannuthy. Gem of a person Fr. Vineeth: now, he will be praying for us in heaven. Adieu!