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Salutations to My Noble Teacher Father Vineeth Vadakethala



Six young men set out in search of the real and approached Sage Pippalada. Pippalada answered the philosophical questions of these enthusiastic young men on the reality of the real. Ignited by the path to the real, the young men said to the Sage: “Sir, you are our father, because you take us across to the other shore of ignorance” (*Praśna Upanishad VI.8*). Like the young men, as an aspirant seeker of the real, I approached beloved Father Vineeth and he was a father to me, instilling in me a great passion and fascination for the real, the Being. He was, indeed, a storehouse of wisdom that inspired, enlightened, and enkindled my quest for the real bringing me closer to the Being beyond the temporal, to the infinity indwelling within me.

I learned from Father Vineeth’s synthesis of the aspects of cultural and philosophical heritages of humanity in the East and the West, lessons in forming foundations of a world vision in the discovery of Being. He was a man of *śravana* (listening), which took him to *manana* (meditating), resulting in *isvarapranidhana* (total dedication to the presencing of the Being). He was an ardent seeker, truly stationed in the real (*Brahmaniṣṭham*). His inner core was the serenity of the timeless. The serene and calm ambience of Vidyanam Ashram always provided me with an aura of enlightening, inviting me to a deeper sense of connectedness. It made me a frequent visitor of the Ashram to listen to the *Acharya* and to learn from the *Upasaka* – adorer of the real.

I learned at his feet the primary lesson, when the real becomes the word (*logos*), the truth emerges in an act of unveiling. I realised that Father Vineeth was able to transcend the limits of temporality, to listen to the voiceless sound of the unuttered word where sound



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Footprints of a Philosopher-Theologian Mystic

and silence merge and give birth to *logos*. The contemplative experiences of the *logos* seasoned him into a philosopher, a poet, and a mystic delving in the deeper dimensions of the mystery of the real.

My association with Acharya Vineeth, along with Acharya Thomas Manickam, gave me greater impetus in my research on the real and language. It was with their constant support and blessings that I could complete my doctoral research on the belonging togetherness of Being and being in a deeper unity, transcending

the bounds of Orient and Occident. I am elated that it was Father Vineeth who blessed me with an adorning foreword to the publication of my doctoral work, *Being and Meaning*.

I believe that Father Vineeth is a glowing memory of a unique and timeless treasure we cherish, which, I am sure, will continue to sparkle the light of the real for all of us. I bow before our noble, awakened teacher, Father Vineeth, with salutations!



Francis Kanichikattil CMI

A Man Who Felt the Soul of India

Fr. Vineeth, a philosopher-theologian, is an original thinker who contributed much for the Church in India to make it really Indian. In his dealing and teaching there was always an Indian touch that made him a different person, who tried to feel the soul of India. I pray: may his soul rest in peace!