

# NAVADARSAN

## Musings from Darsana



### DARSANA INSTITUTE OF PHILOSOPHY

February 2020



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# From the Captain's Desk



Fr. George Kulangara CMI  
Rector

*Hundred and forty-nine years have gone after Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara exited this world. That is quite a long time. But the way Chavara has occupied the spiritual, social and intellectual consciousness of our society during these last ten years will certainly have no parallel even in the decades before his exit. That is how the spiritual and intellectual giants are. They do not really exit this world. The exit of their physical presence opens the floodgates of their spiritual and moral presence. It enters our imagination and evokes and provokes thoughts, plans and programmes to carry their legacy forward.*

*In this year of the Jubilee of Chavara's death, Darsana's resolve is renewed to become more like the Darsanaveedu of Chavara's dream. May he bless our resolve and be with us in this sojourn!*



# Editor Speaks



Fr. Blessen Pettickal CMI

The etymological meaning of transcendence is "to go further, rise above, or be more important or better than something, especially a limit." The catchword of the time has become networking. Within the limits of small room, humanity found space for transcending the limits of speech, association and get together. This is indeed the mark of the time that we have no other choice, but to become cyber-being rather than human beings. We were taught, technology crossed the frontiers of language; that we need not become awe of the other. The social networking has not promised the transcendence of boundaries, but has locked me again in my clichés. As human being I need to grow as a pure human. Cyber language has locked me within the frontiers of my ambitions. I have become too ambitious and narrow hearted. Technology has created a cyber being in me. I live connected but I'm totally disconnected to my neighbours.

Now we find the life of St. Chavara who visualized a new era of reason where God experience go in hand with human development. The schools, which he started, the press which designed, the books, which he wrote, and indeed the mode of travel which he used connected human heart and he imprinted them with the message of compassion. The industrial revolution was at zenith, reason and humanism were the philosophies of his time. In the technology of his time he found the face of compassionate Lord who invites to be messengers of mercy.

Navdarsan, a Darsana initiative serves to continue the legacy of St. Chavara who transcended the boundaries of his times and converted them into springs of unity. I wish and pray for the same that as we celebrate the 150th death anniversary of our beloved founder this initiative will provide space for the future missionaries of the CMI congregation to create a better world by transcending the boundaries of hatred, selfishness and intolerance. This is the need of the hour.

# The Philosophy of Relationship



Bro. Prince Pathinarilchira CMI

*They were celebrating the birthday of their 'chunk' in a "New gen" way. His friends decorated him with gilt, ink, colour powders, mud and cow dung. He was kicked, punched and beaten by his friends in a 'New gen' way. The old generation who witnessed this, commented, "Even his mother didn't suffer this much to give him birth". The birthday boy enjoyed the 'new gen' way of celebrations. Even though he had pain on his body, he had no complaint. Because they were friends ...they were 'chunks'. In addition, he believed that this is the best expression of love from their hearts. If there is love, we will not feel pain.*

*Today's world is a 'New gen' one. Here relationships are valued and measured in a different way on a different scale than the traditional. So it is difficult to scale the depth of love exists among these relations. We cannot define the term 'love' without considering the term 'pain'. To love others means 'to be ready to take the pain for others'. Our relationships are real if we are ready to welcome pain to our life for the sake of the other. It is inevitable to this generation to add the term 'pain' instead of 'pleasure' to give a new definition to love. We should be the 'pain-takers' instead of the 'pleasure-seekers'.*

*The lack of "I- Thou" relationship as philosophised by Martin Buber is the one of the major factors of today's broken relationships. The word 'I-Thou' can only be spoken with the whole being of the person. In this relationship, there is no selfishness and egoism. If there were selfishness, I would use all my relations with parents, partner, friends, and neighbours only for my own pleasures, growth and happiness. I would not consider their joy, happiness and growth. This is "I-It" relation where one is considering the other as an object. Since objects have no lives and feelings, in these type relations, one will not take into account others' pains, feelings and sufferings. The other is only an object for my pleasure. All human beings are subjects not object a subject to love. My parents are subjects, my friends are subjects and my partner is a subject. 'Newgen' wants this 'I- Thou' relationship.*

*Let us practice the philosophy of 'I-Thou' relation and give our hearts to our 'Newgen chunks' to make relationships more beautiful and joyful.*



# Being is Blessed



Bro. Jijoy Arackal CMI

*Roaring waters that gushes forth the rivers,  
Hereof the mountains high up they booze;  
The pleasant air that inflates our organs,  
what else can make this tricky life full of clues?*

*The silence in the cave deep in the abyss,  
the watchfulness of the hills as if they have eyes,  
the tangled branches of the trees hanging high,  
loves every inch of man who forever cries!*

*What makes you think you are a creep?  
When all that the Pulchritude Almighty gave you-  
Is playing you a happy beep;  
why think life be a trash bin,  
when you can make it a stunning fondled inn?*

*Yo Folk of the one who gave you this gift!  
If what you feel is regret and hopeless,  
Then why persist and be a misfit?  
For when you, as an infant, were in your mother's womb-  
Thought you could survive through all of it?*

*People of tribes, people of numerous races,  
People of sufferings who are breaking their life into pieces,  
Hear now all, the beauty of this boon,  
Just as the mysterious bending of the cocoon!*

*The part that is ice cold can be warmed up,  
With thrusts of enjoyment and fellowship;  
For all those things we can forever describe,  
Makes your life like the signet of a ship!*

*Fly free fly high  
Fly above the brewing sky!  
And in your walks never fail to prescribe-  
That the gift of 'Life is Beautiful'!*

# God is Dead



Bro. Amal Thadathil CMI

"God is dead," I was taken up from my sleep by these words of Nietzsche. This is why my seniors told class on existentialism will be interesting, since there will be some words which can even question your existence as a believer. I approached the closest disciple of Jesus to pick out a proper counter-statement for Nietzsche. In spiterreading 21 chapters of the closest disciple, I put on the shoes of Nietzsche, "God is dead" You can but never crucify me as an atheist, but you can as a believer.

At Mount Calvary, Jesus confronted the first crucifixion but it was just the repetition, a repetition of the act that occurred 34 years ago i.e. just one year before his birth on earth. The then crucifixion happened not on a mountain where only the withered plants and trees were witnesses but happened in the midst of the embracement between holiness and ultimate beauty.

If it was Pontius Pilate who ordered Jesus to be crucified on earth, there it was His Father who ordered His Son Jesus to be crucified. Here if it was by the compulsion by the Jews, there it was due to the compulsion of the love towards the people. If Pilate washed his hands with water, Father washed himself with tears along with expectations. Jesus, the God was crucified and died and on the third day, Father took His body and buried it in the womb of the Nazarene Woman. If it was Joseph of Armithea who took responsibility for the body of Jesus and laid it in a tomb, then before 33 years, it was Joseph the Just who took responsibility for the body of Jesus in the virgin's womb. Jesus, the God was dead, but Jesus the carpenter was born. As it is said in Philosophy, the 'matter' remains but the 'form' changes. Yes, Jesus the matter remains, but the form changed. In the beginning of Genesis we read that the Father saw that man was alone and gave him a companion and named her Eve. In the New Testament, God saw that Jesus was alone for 30 years and gave him Spirit as a companion. I thought how cruel was the Father to give His Son Jesus to death, but then I realised that this cruelty was only for 33 years and only because of His blind love towards humanity. After the death of Jesus the Carpenter, the Father gave back his old form, and that is what we read in the Scripture that Jesus is seated gloriously at His right hand. Now I realise the greatness of God, the Father who sacrificed His Beloved Son for us. This Son was born not in a palace, but a stable, and was famously known as 'Jesus of Nazareth - The son of a carpenter' he suffered poverty, rejection and isolation



and God the Father did not spare the cross for His Son, so that the door of heaven be opened for our weakness and struggles. There might not have been the words - Repentance and Forgiveness. Hail to the Father and to the Son and to His Bride the Holy Spirit.

"Jesus was a good Son for he fulfilled the dream of his Father. Jesus was a good Father for he forgave the sins of His Children and he was a good Husband for he never let his bridegroom to doom, for he said, "Father into your hands, I commend my Spirit."

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## She Speaks!

*Oh man! You cannot be blamed  
But wasn't 'you' and 'I'  
Created by the same one  
Your mother is a woman.  
This truth cannot be erased off this earth.  
Even then why do you turn an animal before me?  
Isn't red the colour of blood  
that flow through yours and mine?  
Then why do you 'objectify' me?  
When will your lustful eyes turn away from me?  
For a momentary joy, why do you  
devastate my life?  
Let no other girl become a victim of  
your lustful passion.....  
Remember oh man, that your mother  
and your sister are women too!  
There is always a meaning for  
the word 'women'-an inner meaning.*



Br. Akhil Pallicka CMI



# If You Don't Want to be Ill



Bro. Dibin Kulamackal CMI

## 1. Speak Your Feelings.

Emotions and feelings that are hidden, repressed, end in illnesses as: gastritis, ulcer, lumbar pains, spinal. With time, the repression of the feelings degenerates to the Cancer. Then, we go to a Confidante, to share our intimacy, ours "secret", our errors! The dialogue, the speech, the word, is a powerful remedy and an excellent therapy!

## 2. Make Decisions.

The undecided person remains in doubt, in anxiety, in anguish. Indecision accumulates problems, worries and aggressions. Human history is made of decisions. To decide is precisely to know to renounce, to know to lose advantages and values to win others. The undecided people are victims of gastric ailments, nervous pains and problems of the skin.

## 3. Don't Live By Appearances.

Who hides reality, pretends, poses and always wants to give the impression of being well. He wants to be seen as perfect, easy-going, etc. but is accumulating tons of weight. A bronze statue with feet of clay! There is nothing worse for the health than to live on appearances and facades. These are people with a lot of varnish and little root. Their destiny is the pharmacy, the hospital and pain.

## 4. Accept.

The refusal of acceptance and the absence of self-esteem, make us alienate ourselves. Being at one with ourselves is the core of a healthy life. They, who do not accept this, become envious, jealous, imitators, ultra-competitive, destructive. Be accepted, accept that you are accepted, and accept the criticisms. It is wisdom, good sense and therapy.

# ऐसा क्यों!

तू कहता है कि सभी तुझ से सच बोलें।  
पर तू झूठ बोलने से कभी कतराता नहीं। ऐसा क्यों !  
तू चाहता है कि जब तू मुश्किल में हो तो सभी तेरी मदद करें  
पर जब कोई तुझ से मदद मांगता है तो तू मना कर देता है ऐसा क्यों ! Br. Ajay Ekka CMI

तू चाहता है कि सभी अपना कर्तव्य निभाएं।  
पर तू सिर्फ अपना अधिकार याद रखता है ऐसा क्यों !

तू चाहता है कि कोई तेरा मजाक ना बनाएं।  
पर दूसरों पर हंसने का एक मौका भी नहीं छोड़ता ऐसा क्यों !

तू चाहता है कि सब तेरा सम्मान करें।  
पर तू किसी की सम्मान नहीं करता ऐसा क्यों !

तू चाहता है कि सब तेरी हां में हां मिलाएं।  
पर तू किसी की एक बात भी नहीं सुनता ऐसा क्यों !

तू चाहता है कि सभी गरीबों की मदद करें।  
पर कोई गरीब तेरे पास आता है तो तेरे पास छुट्टे नहीं होते ऐसा क्यों !

झगड़ा व लड़ाई दूसरों से तू खुद शुरू करता है  
और चाहता है कि माफी वह मांगे ऐसा क्यों !

तू चाहता है कि सभी तेरा भरोसा निभाएं।  
पर तू दूसरों का भरोसा चुटकी में तोड़ देता है ऐसा क्यों !

जो अपेक्षा दूसरों से रखता है वह खुद से नही रखता ऐसा क्यों !



Br. Ajay Ekka CMI

## DEATH

*Years may go but years will hear  
Tears may come we hear it near  
It s beautiful because its brings colour  
If we like it or not, it helps to walk in air  
And will gather all tears like rain  
All colours together give it brightness to whiteness*



Br. Noel Puthoor CMI

*It is things after his coming,  
But we need to prepare before his reception  
One day we will meet him,  
But no one can see him any where  
No one can feel him  
Except those to whom he allows.*



# In-Cultural Chapel



Bro. Amardeep Ekka

Understanding may be felt as foolishness, until and unless we go to the deepest meaning hidden behind those rich symbols and sign. Such beautiful chapels are totally related with the human mind and its power, as there are some same understanding which is so beautiful and thus no one generally oppose it, especially on Indian and other local traditional cultural. In the same country itself we see different chapels with same design and same prayer but the real chapel is within oneself the hope, love, and resolution to realize those places of worship like Temple, Mosque, and Church etc. there the places for the conclusion of the in search of the omnipresent, omnipotent, and Omni benevolent dweller. God is the self-actualization of the word Emmanuel (God is with us).

My experience about Darsana chapel where I made my first step, where I found cows, head's, tree, ploughs, grains, shells and flying person on sky, I was wondering, why is it like this? But later I realized through the explanation by seniors, that it's right for me, though I got some idea about them it is fully Culturlised by other religions and placed in catholic understanding. The Sanctuary where Altar and Bema are placed, is an adaptation from Buddhist culture. In Catholic teachings anybody can come and pray in our chapel and churches. Stupa is a Buddhist system, the cow which gives milk to her baby (calf) is represented in our Catholic understanding, that our heavenly father takes care of His children, if they are hungry He feeds, The musical instruments with dancing it is the sign of joyfulness. The Chakra (wheel) is meant as the Ram's chariot's wheel is the sign of power. Tree gives rest to the entire creature, the place for take rest. Birds used to make their nest upon the tree. In the cross, there are two hands which are the sign of the creator of whole universe. Three heads are the husband, wife and son. In the Old Testament we find about the Adam and Eve they had two sons Cain and Abel. Among the Cain and Abel, Cain's offerings' hadn't been accepted by the Lord, by this anger he killed his own brother Abel. As the years passed by, people spread from this content.....

- Do we share enough what we receive from giver?
- Is God himself not the creator? Don't we find in him the full of love and kindness?

We believe whatever kept in the place of prayers are holy, are we not holy.

# ***'No Arms, But Love'***



Bro. Arun Kariyil CMI

The power of a gun can kill, the power of the mind can burn, the power of wind can chill, the power of the mind can learn, the power of anger can remain inside you until it tears you apart, But the power of a smile, can heal a frozen heart. Do we have the power to resist something unjust, unfair, unequal, and inhuman? Then, we can say that we are truly human. But we always bind our powers to ourselves. Why don't we possess the inner power to appreciate well and oppose any thing that is evil? Are we frightened to do anything? We want to fight. "Be a fighter at the same time, be non-violent." Violence is easy but non-violence is tough. Violence is not the answer to violence, the only one way to overcome evil is non-violence. Buddhist scriptures explain the non-violence as the one of the 'Pancasila' means Five Precepts. It consists as the minimal standard of Buddhist morality together with the monastic life. They are Ahimsa (nonviolence), Satya (truth), Asteya (non-stealing), Bramachariya (self-discipline) and Prohibition of Alcohol. As we discuss with the five precepts at the present scenario of our nation we cannot but consider our father of nation Mahatma Gandhiji, he sees these precepts through his vows. It is evident for him that ahimsa is of a higher value; he sometimes extols it as the highest and absolute value that man can ever possess on earth. The choice for ahimsa is the choice for life and righteousness. As a Christian or religious we are also called to be a missionary of non-violence. Pope Francis says "we are called to go for a 'pastoral discernment' to discern over the feasible manifestation of non-violence, depending on our given contextual concern. Father Jerry SJ on 2 October, 2017 in his article "Five Highlights of Non-Violence" invites us to embrace the path of non-violence in order to reach the paradise of peace. They are 1. We must educate ourselves in the spirit of non-violence, 2. We should discern and demonstrate non-violence in our activities, 3. Our communication should be of non-violent in nature, 4. Our approach to creation and nature should be non-violent and 5. We should celebrate our non-violent style of life. All human beings are committed to of non-violence, we need to be sustained by the spirituality of non-violence characterized by authentic freedom, nourished by love, challenged by involvement and also tested by constant evaluation. Gandhi said "Be Thee the change that you propose, if also, I have to become and you have to become a missionary of non -violence."

"There is nothing that God cannot do" (Luke 1:37)



# Newsflash from Darsana

1. We began our academic year with a solemn Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Fr. Raju Avookaran, our Parish Priest. The inspiring homily was delivered by Fr. Bosco Thundiyl OP. On that day we inaugurated the DKS and DSKS Activities.



2. Darsana created a vibe of the beauty of Missionary life by conducting a mission seminar on 14th and 15th of September 2019. The theme of the Seminar was "The Missionaries of The Future on A Pilgrimage: From Present Challenges towards Future Prospects." It was a bench mark in the history of Darsana. The specialty of this Seminar

was that it was completely chalked out, organized, planned and conducted by the formees.

3. We proudly celebrated the Silver Jubilee of the religious commitment of Rev. Fr. Martin Kuzhivelil CMI, the Master of the brothers. We had a solemn Eucharistic celebration followed by a small gathering within the community. We also celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Rev. Fr. George Kulangara CMI, our Rector and Rev. Fr. Tomy Chirapurath CMI, our Associate dean during this year. Kindly remember them in your prayers.



4. Under the banner of DSKS, our brothers conducted value education programme titled 'Speranza' in a few schools at Wardha like Agrabami, Alphonsa and Sant Chavara. It was a splendid experience for the brothers as they could interact and share the Ethical Values with the young generation under the able guidance of Fr. BlessenPettickal.



5. On 2nd of October, the Darsana Community under the guidance of Fr. Tomy Chirappurath went for the rally commemorating 150 years of Gandhi Jayanti. Some 25 of our students were with the members of some other 20 organizations - social and educational - walking the 6 km long root from the town to the BapuKuti, which was flagged off by the Hon'ble Collector of Wardha.

6. Rev. Fr. Prior General made his canonical visit from 14th to 16th of August 2019. His sharing and assessments elated our religious zeal. We were more than happy to have his presence for the Independence Day celebrations with our Eucharistic Community. He also was the Chief Guest at Sant Chavara School for the celebrations.





# “Amrtasvautra”



Bro. Phillips Chalakkal CMI

Human life is indeed an enigma where "our sincerest laughter with some pain is fraught." There is no abiding joy in all the multicolored experiences of life. In spite of our best efforts we cannot hold on to happiness. In the midst of enjoyment all of a sudden crisis comes in form of a painful disease or death of a dear and near one. From the height of a deep wave, we are thrown into a depth of a yawning chasm. We are mercilessly battered by the onslaught of restless waves. The world seems to be dark and gloomy. In the face of such life-affirmation, we are impressed by the urgent need for a renewal of faith, a renaissance of spiritual values. To make good our lapses and inadequacies, to reinstate hope in our dark attitude to life, the Vedantic dictum "Amrtasvaputra" (Son of immortality, potentially divine) would be an imperative to be followed. Life's one's purpose should be the discovery of the enormous resources of one's self. It is the realization of divinity within by controlling nature, external and internal. Realization of divinity is Religion. The power of attaining this is within us. "The Kingdom of God is within you," spoke Jesus Christ. If a man fails to attain divinity, he is thrown into the abyss of despair and misery. The Mundaka Upanishad reiterates, "The individual sinks down in sin and grief so long as he believes that his body is the Atman, but when he realizes that he is one with the self of all things, his grief ceases."

Throughout the long history of India, and in spite of what has gone elsewhere in the world, she has never ignored the spiritual values of life. Narrow mindedness has never been in the blood of India. Accepting every other human being as "Amrtasvaputra" has made India great. Let us also realize that we are eternal beings and live for eternity. Therefore let us strive to lead a life worthy of eternity.

# HUMAN BEING : A TRIADICAL JOURNEY



Bro Jibin Karamullil CMI

*One has no way out if one falls in love with god. He soars like a kite loosened in the azure sky. As human being our call is to fall in love with God, but it needs a triadic journey.*

*Philosophy is a search for wisdom and wisdom is the door that opens to the reality. But reality is an unfathomable mystery and therefore it wants continuous clarification and understanding. So Philosophy is a journey that is never exhausted. It keeps growing, blooming and booming. But from time immemorial most of the philosophical ideas have been mutually varying and disagreeing on basic questions. One such question was about the concept of God, the infinite and supreme reality. Is there God? If God is there, how can I know Him? What is the magic and logic behind the creation and the creatures? The first verse of the Bible states that in the beginning God created heaven and earth (Gen: 1:1-3). It is sure that the inspired writer didn't have enough scientific knowledge about the concept of God.*

*For a science student HUMAN BEING is a compilation or culmination of interior-exterior organs and sensory-unsensory experience. It is impossible for science to communicate the logic behind the life which has a thin thread-like relation of inhalation and exhalation. We read in the book of Genesis that God breathed into the nostrils of man (Gen: 2:7). God inhaled His spirit into us. That means God is in us. Our duty is to realize that indwelling spirit which simply means "Know Thyself". One of the ancient philosophers, Thales says that the most difficult thing in life is to know oneself. None but one who realizes the essence of his life can understand the presence of God in him.*

*Further there is another question, what place does my neighbor have in my life when I turn inward into my life to know the God in me? As many philosophers have shown, the logic behind the creation is transcendent, immanent and omnipresent. That means the Godliness is not in me alone but equally present in my brothers and sisters. How great will it be, if the light which I realized in me helps to remove the darkness in my brothers and sisters as well? Jesus asks, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket or under the bed or the lamp stand?" (Mark 4:21).*

*Am I a seeker of God? Then my journey should be in a triad: God-me-my fellow human. Of course this triadic journey helps me to realize that the thread-like relation of inhalation and exhalation and the spirit that God blew into the Adam's nostrils, flows through me every moment into all my fellow humans and further to the entire creation.*



# Darsana Proudly Celebrates The Silver Jubilee of

*Priestly Ordination*



Fr. George Kulangara CMI



Fr. Thomas Chirappurath CMI

*Religious Profession*



Fr. Martin Kuzhivelil CMI



# 150th Death Anniversary of St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara

