

International Multidisciplinary Research Journal

Golden Research Thoughts

Chief Editor
Dr.Tukaram Narayan Shinde

Publisher
Mrs.Laxmi Ashok Yakkaldevi

Associate Editor
Dr.Rajani Dalvi

Honorary
Mr.Ashok Yakkaldevi

Golden Research Thoughts Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial board. Readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

Regional Editor

Dr. T. Manichander

International Advisory Board

Kamani Perera
Regional Center For Strategic Studies, Sri Lanka

Janaki Sinnasamy
Librarian, University of Malaya

Romona Mihaila
Spiru Haret University, Romania

Delia Serbescu
Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Romania

Anurag Misra
DBS College, Kanpur

Titus PopPhD, Partium Christian University, Oradea, Romania

Mohammad Hailat
Dept. of Mathematical Sciences, University of South Carolina Aiken

Abdullah Sabbagh
Engineering Studies, Sydney

Ecaterina Patrascu
Spiru Haret University, Bucharest

Loredana Bosca
Spiru Haret University, Romania

Fabricio Moraes de Almeida
Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil

George - Calin SERITAN
Faculty of Philosophy and Socio-Political Sciences Al. I. Cuza University, Iasi

Hasan Baktir
English Language and Literature Department, Kayseri

Khayoor Abbas Chotana
Dept of Chemistry, Lahore University of Management Sciences[PK]

Anna Maria Constantinovici
AL. I. Cuza University, Romania

Ilie Pintea,
Spiru Haret University, Romania

Xiaohua Yang
PhD, USA

.....More

Editorial Board

Pratap Vyamktrao Naikwade
ASP College Devruk, Ratnagiri, MS India Ex - VC. Solapur University, Solapur

R. R. Patil
Head Geology Department Solapur University, Solapur

Rama Bhosale
Prin. and Jt. Director Higher Education, Panvel

Salve R. N.
Department of Sociology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur

Govind P. Shinde
Bharati Vidyapeeth School of Distance Education Center, Navi Mumbai

Chakane Sanjay Dnyaneshwar Arts, Science & Commerce College, Indapur, Pune

Awadhesh Kumar Shirotriya
Secretary, Play India Play, Meerut (U.P.)

Iresh Swami
Ex. VC. Solapur University, Solapur

N.S. Dhaygude
Ex. Prin. Dayanand College, Solapur

Narendra Kadu
Jt. Director Higher Education, Pune

K. M. Bhandarkar
Praful Patel College of Education, Gondia

Sonal Singh
Vikram University, Ujjain

G. P. Patankar
S. D. M. Degree College, Honavar, Karnataka

Maj. S. Bakhtiar Choudhary
Director, Hyderabad AP India.

S. Parvathi Devi
Ph.D.-University of Allahabad

Sonal Singh,
Vikram University, Ujjain

Rajendra Shendge
Director, B.C.U.D. Solapur University, Solapur

R. R. Yalikar
Director Management Institute, Solapur

Umesh Rajderkar
Head Humanities & Social Science YCMOU, Nashik

S. R. Pandya
Head Education Dept. Mumbai University, Mumbai

Alka Darshan Shrivastava
Shashiya Snatkottar Mahavidyalaya, Dhar

Rahul Shriram Sudke
Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore

S. KANNAN
Annamalai University, TN

Satish Kumar Kalhotra
Maulana Azad National Urdu University



THE LIFE AND WORK OF MAR ABIMALEK TIMOTHEUS

Thomas Oommen

Ph.D., Research Scholar in History , Department of History,
Presidency College (Autonomous),Chennai.

ABSTRACT

His Grace Mar Abimalek Timotheus was born on 28th August 1878, in Iran. Mar Timotheus was the Metropolitan of Malabar and India. He was ordained a deacon in 1903 and made a priest and Archdeacon in 1904 by Patriarch Mar Benjamin Shimun XXI. He was ordained as a Bishop and elevated as Metropolitan of Malabar and India by the same Patriarch in 1907. He arrived at Trichur on February 27th 1908. Mar Timotheus was a divine man who truly served God. He ruled the Church of the East in India for 37 long years. He had so much discernment and he also had power to heal the sick. The Assyrian Church of the East locally known as Chaldean Syrian Church is flourishing in India because of his tireless effort. There are 30,000 members in India mainly in Thrissur and Kerala. There are 400,000 members throughout the world. We are learning about this ancient church which even our forefathers did not know.

KEYWORDS:Church, Patriarch, Chariot, Cape Comorin, Christian.

INTRODUCTION :

Mar Abimalek Timotheus was the Archbishop of the Chaldean Syrian Church¹ in India. He was ordained as a priest and sent to Malabar and India by his friend Patriarch Benjamin Mar Shimun. Mar Timotheus also took part

in the freedom struggle.

EARLY YEARS

Abimalek De Kelliatha was born as the son of a priest named Eshai in the little Village of Mar Beesho near Lake Urmia in Persia² on August 28th, 1878, which happened to be the death anniversary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of Christ.

From his childhood, Abimalek spent his life in prayer and meditation. His interest was to live a godly life. The missionaries of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Assyria Mission³ at Urmia in Persia educated him. They trained him for greater responsibilities of the Church.

In April 1903, the 16 year old Benjamin

Shimun assured his duties as Patriarch and asked his long time friend Abimalek De Kelliatha to become a deacon. He became an Archdeacon in 1904. He studied English from W.H. Browne along with Benjamin and Surma.⁴ The young Archdeacon served as the special representative of the Patriarch till December 1907.

In December 1907, Patriarch Mar Benjamin Shimun consecrated Archdeacon Abimalek as Bishop and Metropolitan for Malabar and India at Mar Shallitha Church at Qudshanis⁵ and sent him to India. On December 15, 1907, he set on a tedious and dangerous journey to India via Mosul, Iraq.

Mar Timotheus had to disguise himself as an Arab shepherd as he was afraid that some people would kill him on the way if his identity was revealed. From Mosul, Mar Timotheus



travelled to Baghdad. Then he sailed from Basra and reached Muscat on February 12, 1908. He sent a telegram from Muscat to the anxious and eagerly waiting congregation at Trichur. He reached Bombay on February 16, 1908.

On the 27th of February 1908, he was given a grand reception at the Trichur railway station and taken Valiapally⁶, through Civil Hospital Road and Central Main Road along with a crowded procession accompanied by drums and music enthroned in a specially constructed and decorated Pandal⁷. The Metropolitan was taken in a chariot drawn by a horse at Trichur. However, while the procession was approaching the Big Church, the young and educated men drew the chariot themselves instead of the horse.

The congregation loved their new Metropolitan. Mar Timotheus began to celebrate Holy Services at the Mart Mariam Big Church, but he did not celebrate Holy Services on the altar because of images kept in the church. Mar Timotheus made a good impression in the minds of the non-Christians on the day of his arrival. He shook hands with non-Christians and chatted with them freely. He spoke in Syriac and English as he did not know Malayalam at that time.

FIRST DECADE

Mar Abimalek Timotheus had to face a lot of court cases. In 1911, Michael Augustine, the Cor - Episcopa insisted that Mar Timotheus could only function as his successor only after his death. The Michael Augustine died in 1911.

SECOND AND THIRD DECADES

In the second and third decades, Mar Timotheus went to Baquaba Refugee Camp in Iraq and ordained a 17 year old boy called Mansur Darmo⁸ as a deacon who later succeeded him as Metropolitan. Mar Timotheus went to Britain and United States in 1924. He built many churches and the Metropolitan's Palace next to the Big Church in 1927.

In 1931, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru⁹, who later became the first Prime Minister of India along with his wife Kamala and daughter Indira visited him and stayed with him for a few days.

Mar Timotheus stood up to the British to show he is a true Christian. He took part in the freedom struggle. Mr. C. W. E. Cotton, the British Resident awarded the Big Church to Mar Timotheus in 1925.

Then in January 1934, Mohandas Gandhi visited Mar Timotheus and they both sat on the floor. Gandhi was impressed by the simplicity of this foreign Metropolitan and his love for India. Mar Timotheus also wore Khadi¹⁰ which is a hand spun cloth.

FINAL YEARS

During this period, Mar Timotheus ordained a new batch of deacons on his 61st Birthday in 1939. He ordained four deacons. Prominent people like Mr. N. O. Inasu who was chairman of the Municipal Corporation moved away from the Metropolitan and joined the Roman Catholic Church. A young trustee, Mr. M. O. Thoma Kutty¹¹ who happened to be N.O. Inasu's son-in-law remained close to the Metropolitan.

In 1934, the government appealed for funds for the earthquake relief. Mar Timotheus sent Rs.610/- In July 1941, Mar Timotheus collected Rs.70/- from his congregation towards the Cochin State Cyclone Relief Fund. It was gratefully acknowledged by the Diwan of Cochin, Perskhar. On February 17, 1944, Mar Timotheus sent Rs.101/- for the Greek Relief Fund. The sunny summer heat of Trichur was unbearable for Mar Abimalek Timotheus. He went to Coimbatore, Madanapalle, Bangalore, Coonoor etc to recuperate for his health. He was brought up in the cooler climate of Kurdistan.¹²

On 25th of December, 1940, he bequeathed his personal amount of money to his nephew Dr. Eshai De Kelliatha who was a medical doctor who studied at Madras Medical College.

DEMISE AND FUNERAL

In February 1945, Mar Timotheus went to Cape Comorin¹³ in the Southern tip of India. He went there to rest. From there he proceeded to the Mission Hospital at Neyyur near Nagercoil.

In April 1945, he returned to Trichur after his treatment. He stopped at the Travellers Bungalow at Ernakulam on his return journey. They local church members met their beloved Metropolitan. He looked very happy. He carried

some shells which he picked up from Cape Comorin for children at Trichur. He was always fond of children who flocked to the Metropolitan's Palace with respect for the old man with the beard.

On April 20, 1945, Mar Timotheus reached Trichy accompanied by Deacon M.O. Verghese reached Trichur. On Sunday, April 22, Mar Timotheus conducted Holy Qurbana¹⁴ at Mar Yohannan Mamadhana Church. He wanted to be in the horse cart for Palm Sunday. His doctor, Dr. P. N. Krishna Iyer gave him the treatment.

The Palm Sunday on April 30, 1945 was a special day. One to his sickness, he could not be in the Palm Sunday procession. He saw the Sunday school children singing songs in Syriac. On Palm Sunday, he talked with a few people. He was still conscious. He went to bed after 9 pm. He died at 9:45pm. There was a Halo on his head. The next day, his dead body was taken to the Big Church where it lay in state until Wednesday. He was buried in the sitting pose. Many Hindus, Christians and Muslims visited the Big Church.

CONCLUSION

Mar Abimalek Timotheus was a divine old man. He had the God given power to heal the sick and pray for women to have children. He showed love to everyone. He was loved by all the people of Trichur. Too bad he could not see India as an independent nation.

END NOTES

- 1.Chaldean Syrian Church is the Indian Branch of that Assyrian Church of the East, Aprem, Mar, Moran Etho, The Assyrian Church of the East in the 20th Century, pp.95-100.
- 2.Persia was renamed Iran in 1935, New Book of Knowledge, Grolier & Company, 1985.
- 3.Archbishop of Canterbury sent the first organized mission to the Assyrian Church in 1886, Aprem, Mar, Mar Abimalek Timotheus, Mar Narsai Press, Trichur, Kerala, pp 6-7.
- 4.Lady Surma D'Bait Mar Shimun was the elder sister of Patriarch Mar Benjamin Shimun,. Surma D' Mar Shimun. Assyrian Church Customs, Turlock, U.S.A. 1983.
- 5.Mar Shallitha Church at Qudshanis was where the Patriarchate was in 1907. Mar Aprem, Mar Abimalek Timotheus, Mar Narsai Press, Trichur, India, 1975.
- 6.Valiapally means Big Church, Aprem, Mar, Mar Abimalek Timotheus, Trichur, 1975.
- 7.Pandal means Sharmiyana.
- 8.Deacon Mansur Darmo later became Mar Thoma Darmo, Mar Aprem, Mar Thoma Darmo, Mar Narsai Press, Trichur, Kerala, 1974, p.5.
- 9.Nehru, Jawaharlal, An Autobiography, London, 1936, pp, 273 – 274.
- 10.Khadi is hand spun cloth which is weaved. Rajmohan Gandhi, Mohandas, Penguin Viking, 2008.
- 11.M.O.Thoma Kutty was an M.L.C. in the Cochin Legislative Assembly.
- 12.Kurdistan is currently situated between Iran, Iraq and Turkey. Mar Aprem, Mar Abimalek Timotheus, Mar Narsai Press, Trichur, 1975.
- 13.Cape Comorin is now known as Kanyakumari situated in Tamil Nadu.
- 14.Holy Qurbana means Holy Communion, Surma D'Bait Mar Shimun, Assyrian Church Customs, Mar Shimun Memorial Fund, Turlock, California, U.S.A., 1983.

REFERENCES

- 1.Mar Aprem, India Church History Lectures, Mar Narsai Press, Trichur, 2007.
- 2.Mar Aprem, Mar Abimalek Timotheus, Mar Narsai Press, Trichur, 1975.
- 3.Mar Aprem, Moran Etho, The Assyrian Church of the East in the 20th Century, Seeri, Baker Hill, Kottayam, 2003.
- 4.Surma D' Bait Mar Shimun, Assyrian Church Customs, Mar Shimun Fund, Turlock, California, 1983.
- 5.Ignatius K.A. The Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East, Mar Timotheus Metropolitan Memorial Fellowship Thrissur, 2010.
- 6.Christoph Baumer, The Church of the East, I.B. Tauris, New York, 2006.
- 7.Nehru, Pandit Jawaharlal, An Autobiography, London, 1936.
- 8.Aprem, Mar, Mar Abdisho Thondanat, Mar Narsai Press, Trichur, 1987.
- 9.Frykenburg, Robert Eric, Christianity in India, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2009.
- 10.Antony Kariyil, Church and Society in Kerala, Intercultural Publications, New Delhi, 1995.

Publish Research Article

International Level Multidisciplinary Research Journal For All Subjects

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished Research Paper,Summary of Research Project, Theses, Books and Book Review for publication, you will be pleased to know that our journals are

Associated and Indexed, India

- ★ International Scientific Journal Consortium
- ★ OPEN J-GATE

Associated and Indexed, USA

- EBSCO
- Index Copernicus
- Publication Index
- Academic Journal Database
- Contemporary Research Index
- Academic Paper Database
- Digital Journals Database
- Current Index to Scholarly Journals
- Elite Scientific Journal Archive
- Directory Of Academic Resources
- Scholar Journal Index
- Recent Science Index
- Scientific Resources Database
- Directory Of Research Journal Indexing

Golden Research Thoughts
258/34 Raviwar Peth Solapur-413005, Maharashtra
Contact-9595359435
E-Mail-ayisrj@yahoo.in/ayisrj2011@gmail.com
Website : www.aygrt.isrj.org