

Dänisch-Hallesche Mission

Propagation of the Gospel in the East

Propagation of the Gospel in the East: Being a Farther Account of the Success Of The Danish Missionaries, Sent to the East-Indies, For The Conversion Of The Heathens in Malabar

Böhm, Anton Wilhelm

London, 1714

Appendix.

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die Digitalisate des Francke-Portals sind urheberrechtlich geschützt. Sie dürfen für wissenschaftliche und private Zwecke heruntergeladen und ausgedruckt werden. Vorhandene Herkunftsbezeichnungen dürfen dabei nicht entfernt werden.

Eine kommerzielle oder institutionelle Nutzung oder Veröffentlichung dieser Inhalte ist ohne vorheriges schriftliches Einverständnis des Studienzentrums August Hermann Francke der Franckeschen Stiftungen nicht gestattet, das ggf. auf weitere Institutionen als Rechteinhaber verweist. Für die Veröffentlichung der Digitalisate können gemäß der Gebührenordnung der Franckeschen Stiftungen Entgelte erhoben werden. Zur Erteilung einer Veröffentlichungsgenehmigung wenden Sie sich bitte an die Leiterin des Studienzentrums, Frau Dr. Britta Klosterberg, Franckeplatz 1, Haus 22-24, 06110 Halle (studienzentrum@francke-halle.de)

Terms of use

All digital documents of the Francke-Portal are protected by copyright. They may be downloaded and printed only for non-commercial educational, research and private purposes. Attached provenance marks may not be removed.

Commercial or institutional use or publication of these digital documents in printed or digital form is not allowed without obtaining prior written permission by the Study Center August Hermann Francke of the Francke Foundations which can refer to other institutions as right holders. If digital documents are published, the Study Center is entitled to charge a fee in accordance with the scale of charges of the Francke Foundations.

For reproduction requests and permissions, please contact the head of the Study Center, Frau Dr. Britta Klosterberg, Franckeplatz 1, Haus 22-24, 06110 Halle (studienzentrum@francke-halle.de)

urn:nbn:de:gbv:ha33-1-42477

APPENDIX.

Frequent mention being made of the BRAMANS in this, and other such Pieces as treat on the Affairs of India, and particularly, on the Religion and Idolatry of the Inhabitants; the following short Account, containing the Character and Original of the Bramans, or Indian Priests, has been thought fit to be here inserted. It is taken out of the II Book of the Life of Francis Xavier, writ in French by Father Bohours, and translated into English, by Mr. Dryden, 1688.

‘ **T**HE Bramans are very considerable
 ‘ among the Indians, both for their
 ‘ Birth, and their Employment. According
 ‘ to the ancient Fables of the Indies, their
 ‘ Original is from Heaven. And ’tis the com-
 ‘ mon Opinion, that the Blood of the Gods
 ‘ is running in their Veins. But to under-
 ‘ stand how they were Born, and from what
 ‘ God descended, ’tis necessary to know the
 ‘ History of the Gods of that Country, which
 ‘ in short is this :

‘ The first, and Lord of all the others is,
 ‘ Parabrama; that is to say, a most perfect
 ‘ Substance, who has his Being from himself,
 ‘ and who gives Being to the rest. This
 ‘ God

God being a Spirit free from Matter, and desirous to appear once under a sensible Figure, became Man: By the only Desire which he had to shew himself, he conceived a Son, who came out of his Mouth, and was called, *Maiso*. He had two others after him, one of them, whose Name was *Visnu*, was born out of his Breast; the other called, *Brama*, out of his Belly. Before he returned to his Invisibleness, he assigned Habitations and Employments to his three Children. He placed the Eldest in the first Heaven, and gave him an absolute Command over the Elements, and mix'd Bodies. He lodged *Visnu* beneath his Elder Brother, and establish'd him the Judge of Men, the Father of the Poor, and the Protector of the Unfortunate. *Brama* had for his Inheritance, the third Heaven, with the Superintendance of Sacrifices, and other Ceremonies of Religion.

These are the three Deities, which the *Indians* represent by one Idol, with three Heads growing out of one Body, with this mysterious Signification, that they all proceed from the same Principle. By which it may be inferred, that in former Times they have heard of *Christianity*; and that their Religion is an imperfect Imitation, or rather, a Corruption of ours.

They say, that *Visnu* has descended a Thousand Times on Earth, and every Time has changed his Shape; sometimes appearing in the Figure of a Beast, some-
F times

‘ times of a Man ; which is the Original of
‘ their *Pagods*, of whom they relate so ma-
‘ ny Fables.

‘ They add, That *Brama*, having likewise
‘ a Desire of Children, made himself visi-
‘ ble, and begot the *Brachmans*, whose Race
‘ has infinitely multiplied : The People be-
‘ lieve them *Demy-Gods*, as poor and mi-
‘ serable as they are. They likewise ima-
‘ gine them to be *Saints*, because they lead
‘ a hard and solitary Life ; having very of-
‘ ten no other Lodging, than the hollow
‘ of a Tree, or a Cave, and sometimes liv-
‘ ing exposed to the Air on a bare Moun-
‘ tain, or in a Wilderness, suffering all the
‘ Hardships of the Weather, keeping a pro-
‘ found Silence, fasting a whole Year toge-
‘ ther, and making a Profession of eating no-
‘ thing which has had Life in it.

‘ But after all, there was not perhaps a
‘ more wicked Nation under the Canopy
‘ of Heaven. The Fruit of those Austeri-
‘ ties, which they practise in the Desert,
‘ is to abandon themselves in Publick, to
‘ the most brutal Pleasures of the Flesh,
‘ without either Shame, or Remorse of Con-
‘ science. For they certainly believe, that
‘ all Things, how abominable soever, are law-
‘ ful to be done, provided they are suggested
‘ to them by the Light which is within them.
‘ And the People are so infatuated with
‘ them, that they believe that they shall
‘ become holy, by partaking in their
‘ Crimes, or by suffering any Outrage
‘ from them.

‘ On

‘ On the other side, they are the great-
‘ est Impostors in the World: Their Ta-
‘ lent consists in inventing new Fables eve-
‘ ry Day, and making them pass amongst
‘ the Vulgar for wonderful Mysteries. One
‘ of their Cheats is, to persuade the Sim-
‘ ple, that the *Pagodes* eat like Men; and
‘ to the End they may be presented with
‘ good Cheer, they make their Gods of a
‘ Gigantique Figure, and are sure to en-
‘ dow them with a prodigious Paunch. If
‘ those Offerings, with which they maintain
‘ their Families, come to fail, they denounce
‘ to the People, that the offended *Pagodes*
‘ threaten the Country with some dreadful
‘ Judgment; or that their Gods, in Displea-
‘ sure, will forsake them, because they are
‘ suffered to die of Hunger.

‘ The *Doctrine* of these *Brachmans*, is no-
‘ thing better than their Life: One of their
‘ grossest Errors is, to believe that Kine
‘ have in them somewhat of *Sacred* and Di-
‘ vine. That happy is the Man, who can
‘ be sprinkled over with the Ashes of a
‘ Cow, burnt by the Hand of a *Brachman*;
‘ but thrice happy he, who, in dying, lays
‘ hold of a Cow’s Tail, and expires with it
‘ betwixt his Hands. For thus assisted, the
‘ Soul departs out of the Body *purified*, and
‘ sometimes returns into the Body of a Cow.
‘ That such a Favour, notwithstanding, is
‘ not conferred but on Heroick Souls, who
‘ condemn Life, and die generously, either by
‘ casting themselves headlong from a Pre-
‘ cipice, or leaping into a kindled Pile, or
‘ throw-

‘ throwing themselves under the Holy Cha-
 ‘ riot-Wheels, to be crush’d to Death by
 ‘ the *Pagodes*, while they are carried in Tri-
 ‘ umph about the Town.

‘ We are not to wonder after this, that the
 ‘ *Brachmans* cannot endure the *Christian Law*;
 ‘ and that they make use of all their Credit,
 ‘ and their Cunning, to destroy it in the *In-*
 ‘ *dies*. Being favoured by Princes, infinite in
 ‘ Number, and strongly united amongst them-
 ‘ selves, they succeed in all they undertake;
 ‘ and as being great Zealots for their ancient
 ‘ Superstitions, and most obstinate in their Opi-
 ‘ nions, ’tis not easie to convert them.

F I N I S.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Propagation of the Gospel in the East: Or an Account of the Success of the Danish Missionaries sent into the East-Indies, for the Conversion of the Heathens in Malabar. In Three Parts. Sold by J. Downing, in Bartholomew's Close near West-Smithfield.