

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

The Seventh Question.

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willing to work, if they can but meet with any Encouragement. We shall do what we can towards establishing in Time, one *Manufacture* or other, for the Benefit of this People. Many indeed, are well inclined to Christianity, but they shrink back at the Sight of Poverty, seeing they cannot live among us without a deal of Trouble and Misery.

The Seventh Question.

Is this Nation naturally sly and fickle, or is it naturally upright and open-hearted? How doth their Nature behave it self towards Grace?

Answer: This Heathen Nation is naturally inclined to Candour and Honesty towards those that are of the same Religion with them: But then they shew but little Regard to our *European* Christians, among whom they have for these *Hundred and Fifty* Years past, observed innumerable bad and disorderly Doings. The Consequence whereof is, that many will not stick to over-reach our Christians in whatever they can. They have all along harboured this Opinion, that there could not be a duller and more dangerous People in the Universe, than the Christians. But be that as it will, when an upright and honest *European* comes in their way, they will entertain him very civilly, without Fraud and Malice. However, what I say of their *Honesty* and *Faithfulness*, I would not have extended to all, but to such only as are somewhat more improved in Civility and good Manners. There are many that do not
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live at all like rational Men, but rather like Beasts and Brutes. The whole *Malabarick* Nation in general, is very much addicted to the Sin of *Uncleanness*, the most reigning Vice among them.

As for their natural Parts, I cannot but say, they are *sharp* and ingenious enough to imitate all the Arts and Sciences of the *Europeans*. They are besides of a *compassionate* Temper towards the Poor and Indigent. They love Eloquence, and Discourses on serious Subjects. When I happen to preach unto them, they give, for the most Part, a diligent Attendance to what is delivered. When their *Nature* comes to be sanctified by *Grace*, they are very earnest in the Practice of true Religion. Those that have been affected by the *Preventing* Grace of God, but cleaving too much to their own erroneous Books and Fancies, do not yield an entire Obedience to the divine Conviction; those, I say, are led by their own Will into various Temptations and Errors. Their Conscience convinceth them that they are not safe in their own Pagan Religion; and yet they are unwilling too to embrace *JESUS CHRIST* as their only Redeemer and Saviour. Thus they wander about in the Conceits and Inventions of their own deluded Heart. They retire from the outward Converse with the World, into Desarts and lonesome Places: They forsake all they have, and living very austere and mortified Lives, they fancy they must merit Eternal Salvation by such strict and severe Performances.

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