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Tagebuch von Johann Ernst Geister und Johann Zacharias Kiernander.

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Cuddalore, 18.01.1741-28.12.1741

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Virgin without the concurrence of a man. Answer. If God could make the whole world out of nothing, when there was neither male nor female, it would be wrong to confine his power within so narrow limits, as to think that he could not produce a true man from a female without a male. After some other questions about the holy virgin & Joseph, he asked very warmly, if nothing of Mahomed was wrote in our Bible. Though this was answered in the negative he repeated his question several times, insisting we should say, what it was, that was mentioned of Mahomed in our Bible. He did all this in a very strange manner, which made us turn the discourse at last on some indifferent things. There was another difficulty, that we could understand one another but half, because the Malabares in these parts, though they talk the Malabar language, yet they intermix it with so many words from the Arabic & Persian language, that chiefly when they talk of religion, they make almost a different dialect of it. We took at last our leave from them & were accompanied by one of the family.

15. With divine assistance the first Malabar sermon was preached to day upon the first part of the 15th Chapter of St. Matthew. The service was begun with the Litany translated from the English, & concluded with a prayer. The auditors were few of our christian domesticks with their families, though we resolved, to give the Heathens an opportunity to be present. We likewise resolved, that for a short time the Malabar sermon should be only every other Sunday, till we could do it every Sunday. It was to us a matter of joy & thanksgiving to God who had brought us one step further.

In our Portuguese sermons we continued to ^{propose &} explain the history of Christs suffering.

March.

Through Divine assistance we found our selves capable to go on in our business, at home as well as abroad. At home we applied ourselves to improve in the languages, & likewise took care of the schools. we were visited now & then by the natives & went frequently through the streets of Fudalore in order to be more acquainted with them.

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