



Book Review

John Mialil SJ, *Wonders in Nature*, Media House, Delhi, 2008, ISBN: 81-7495-329-9, pp152. Rs. 100.

The purpose of this book is to generate genuine wonder in the minds of the readers, regarding life in general and the wonderful way all living beings – plants, animals and humans – function as if there is built in computer within, to attain twin purposes, namely, preservation of self and perpetuation of the species. The reason for making such an effort is on account of the settled account of some of the contemporary thinkers to exclude God completely from the functioning of the universe. The book shows that science on its own cannot explain the origin and progress of the universe or life.

Thus the book shows that nature and science does indicate God. The universe is still a mystery to us, both to the believer and non-believer, to the learned and unlettered alike. If we look around seriously and persistently, above us and beneath us we see multitudinous abyss of space with myriads of creatures, big and small. The smallest cell that defies the keenest human sight, the highest mountain peak, the tiniest water molecule, all pay homage to the Sovereign Being. Nature is a fact, a reality that needs an explanation.

In this book Fr Mialil speaks of the ‘wonders of nature’ with specific examples. There are thousands of miracles taking place in this universe, many as yet undreamt by humans. The pages in this book will suffice us to raise our minds and hearts with folded hands to pay homage to its Ordainer, based on natural science. We are sure the book will inspire the reader to be firmly rooted on the ground of reality and open to the transcendent and mysterious Divine.

S. Ignacimuthu SJ. *Environmental Spirituality*. St Pauls, Mumbai, 2010 ISBN: 978-93-5015-001-6 pp. 128, Rs 80.

Protection of environment has become a necessity for the very survival of human beings. Instead of being the stewards of God's creation, we humans are fast becoming its destroyers in our relentless and unbridled race for technological advancement. Nature is sending alarming signals of protest through drastic climate change, global warming, tsunami-like natural calamities and so on.

Environmental Spirituality is a timely clarion call to rediscover our roots, our interconnectedness and our interdependence in the cosmos. It energizes our faith, enkindles our spirituality, challenges our conscience, elicits our thinking, encourages our response and enhances our commitments to work for the protection of environment. In short, here is a book that invites us to experience the divine in and through environment.

After a historical survey (Environment: Past, Present and Future) the author talks of environment from various religious perspectives. The next chapter deals with environment and the Bible, followed by environment and the Church. This is followed by the author's invitation to sense "God's presence in the environment." Then the author leads us to reflect on environment and our mission. He affirms that environment is really God's expression. The final chapter suggests ways to live in harmony with environment, asking us to go beyond materialism and inviting us to be committed to environmental protection.

After *Laudato Si'* this book has become an even more challenge to all religious believers and especially Christians.