

## Editorial

In September 1988 the sub-regional representatives of the Asian Women's Resource Centre for Culture and Theology met in Hong Kong. Before discussing the Centre's charter and other business items, we started to share what the feminine images of God in our traditional religions were.

Stella Faria of India talked about *Hindu goddesses*, while Choi Man Ja of Korea presented *Shamanism as it is practiced in Korea*. Dulcie Abraham of Malaysia spoke of *Islam and Hinduism in Malaysia*, while Jane Chui of Hong Kong discussed *Chinese religion and goddesses*. Ann Wansbrough of Australia presented *Christian religion*.

There was quite an insightful expression and we decided to share these papers with the readers of *In God's image*. This is also a prelude for our scheduled meeting in Kuala Lumpur which will take place in November of this year. The Conference is on Interfaith Dialogue from Women's Perspective. The speakers will be a Hindu, a Buddhist and a Muslim, all women scholars. A Korean woman will speak about Shamanism. The Christian women participants are expected to share their prepared notes in dialogue with these women of other religions.

Some more articles are added to the Hong Kong presentation. They are: Parichart Suwanbubha's *The Position of Women in Buddhism\**,

and Sun Ai Lee Park's *Confucianism and Women*.

All these articles refer to the authors' traditional religions and how they influence the women's situation in Asia. Some are positive and some are negative. In any case, Asian women's lives are much influenced and controlled by their religio-cultural indoctrination. Asia is the birth place of all of the great world religions, and most Asian people either ardently adhere to one or more religions or are deeply influenced by the traditional religio-cultural value orientation which is fundamentally patriarchal male-centric.

As Asian women have started to do contextual feminist theology, the traditional religious perceptions regarding women must be one of the major subjects for research and reflection.

A special thanks to Shum Yun Shan—AWRCCT, Hong Kong, Sue Barrett, USA and Yvonne Dahlin of Church of Sweden Mission who have been committed to the cause of Asian women. They have managed all of the publication work for the Centre in Hong Kong, while the coordinator had to be away from Asia for personal and familial reasons the last school year. We rejoice in the women's network and solidarity around the world.

\*This article is part of a Thesis for a Master of Arts degree from Mahidol University, Thailand in 1983.

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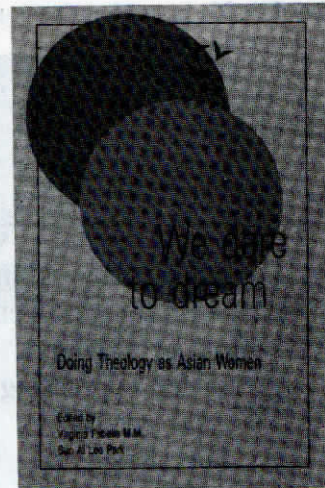
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