

# **Very Rev. Dr. Curien Arch corepiscopa Kaniamparambil: A shining star in the Syrian Orthodox Church**

*By  
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The Syrian Orthodox Church is spread all over the world, but the majority of its members live in India in the state of Kerala. The church traces back its origin to Apostle Thomas, who came to India in AD 52 and preached the Gospel. The Jacobite Syrian church in India today is the true descendants of 1<sup>st</sup> century apostolic church and not a new creation. With the first Universal Synod of Nicea in AD 325 the church in India came under the Patriarchate of Antioch.

The Jacobite Syrian church in India preserves its age old sacred faith and traditions of Universal Syrian Orthodox church, which is under the spiritual supremacy of the Patriarch of Antioch and All the East. The church also gives importance to the study of its sacred liturgical language Syriac. When we think of the history of Jacobite Syrian church in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries the name of one talented and eminent person shines and shines like a superstar. This superstar is nobody else but very. Rev. Dr. Curien corepiscopa Kaniamparambil. His name now shines and will continue to shine forever and the name can never be forgotten or ignored in the history of the Jacobite Syrian Church in India. I believe that God almighty has sent His Holy spirit upon him, so that he may write much needed and important books for the church and may become the official teacher, spokesman and true servant of the church.

Considering his meritorious services to the church H.H. The Patriarch of Antioch decorated him with the title Arch-cor episcopa in connection with his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. It is a title given only to one person in the history of the whole Universal Syrian Orthodox Church. Our Malankara Malpan Very Rev. Dr. Kaaniamparambil Curien Cor-episcopa really deserves this unique title, because he is unique in his God given talents and abilities. The M.S.O.T. seminary has decided to dedicate one wing in the library in honour of very. Rev. Dr. Curien Arch Corepiscopa so that his name may be remembered for ever. ( This age is an age of ecumenism and therefore the members of other churches will enquire about the church especially about history, liturgical, language, faith and tradition, official Bible. Liturgy etc. there is only one person to answer all those questions and that is undoubtedly Very Rev. Dr. Kaniamparambil Curien Corepiscopa.

In the 13<sup>th</sup> century there was an allround scholar in the Syrian orthodox church and his name was Bar Hebrews. He was the Maphriyano of the East and wrote books covering many fields of knowledge. Very. Rev. Dr. Curien Corepiscopa Kaniamparambil is the new Bar Hebrews in the 21<sup>st</sup> century for the Jacobite Syrian church in India. The church is so fortunate that it has such an eminent and blessed scholar and writer. The whole Syrian orthodox church can be proud of him. His God given talents, abilities and his great services to the church can be proved by giving a few concrete examples.

1. As a young boy at the age of 15 he was able to master the sacred liturgical language Syriac. He was able to translate Syriac prose and poetry into Malayalam. He translated syriac prayer songs into Malayalam and many of such songs are still in use in the prayers of our church.
2. Translation of the whole Bible from the old syriac text called "Pshito" into Malayalam is a task that can be done only by an exceptionally talented and gifted person. Very Rev. Curien Corepiscopa has fulfilled successfully this laborious task alone and through this work he has presented the most precious crown to the Jacobite Syrian church in India. His translation of the Bible called "Visudha Grantham" became the official Bible of the Jacobite Syrian Church. The whole church is thankful and indebted to him for this unique contribution.
3. His book in the field of History of Christianity called "Suriyani Sabha" is the most important and authentic book that describes the history of the Syrian orthodox church in India. Thanks to this contribution a true history of the Jacobite Syrian church from 1<sup>st</sup> century onwards is preserved.
4. If anybody wants to get an overall panoramic view of the Jacobite Syrian church in English Language there is only one means to get the same: Go through the book of very. Rev. Dr. Curien Corepiscopa with the title "Syrian Orthodox Church in India and its Apostolic faith". I have mentioned only a few of his contributions. He has written more than 90 scholarly books and if we try to give a brief description about all those books we have to dedicate a whole book for the same. In the history of the Syrian Orthodox Church in India nobody has given such substantial literary contributions. He is capable of working books in Syriac, English and Malayalam and has written books in all these languages.
5. Very. Rev. Dr. Curien Corepiscopa was the vaidika trustee of the Jacobite Syrian church. This is the highest position that a priest or corepiscopa can get. He is thus one among the four topmost administrative authorities of the church, though he is least interested in administrative matters.
6. Very rev. Dr. Curien Cor-episcopa is the Malankara Malpan and this means that he is the official teacher of the faith and traditions of the Jacobite Syrian church in India. He is not only the most suitable person

but also the only eligible person to decorate this reputable position of the church.

7. Considering his meritorious services and exceptional abilities H.H. The Patriarch of Antioch and All the East has honoured him giving him the title “ Korooso Dasroro Sophar”. This means that he is honoured not only by the Jacobite Syrian Church in India but also by the Universal Syrian Orthodox church.
8. Syriac Language is one of the approved languages in Kerala University and in Mahatma Gandhi University.. Actually Very Rev. Dr. Kurien Corepiscopa is the best scholar in the field of Syriac language and literature. Considering his scholarship both the universities selected him to be a member of the Board of studies in Syriac and in this capacity he rendered his services for a long time.
9. The history of the Jacobite Syrian church was for the last 100 years is mainly history of litigations between the Patriarchal faction and Catholicose faction. In this litigation Very Rev. Dr. Curien Coepiscopa was brought before the court as the main witness for the Patriarchal faction. His witness given in the Hon: High court of Kerala now edited in 1050 pages is really tremendous.

Let us approach him not a s scholar but as a Philanthrope. He always receives us with a smiling face and loving kiss. His simplicity and humility has no parallels. Though a great man he leads a very simple Christian life. When Jesus saw Nathanael Jesus said “Behold here is a true Israelite in whom is no guile” when we visit Very Rev. Dr. Curien Corepiscopa in his house we will remember the words of Jesus Christ and will say: “Behold here is a true Jacobite Syrian Christian, in whom is no guile”.

As a simple servant of God in the Jacobite Syrian church let me praise God Almighty for giving such a talented and gifted person to our church. Let us thank God and bow our heads before this great personality as a sign of respect for his everlasting and unforgettable services to the church. He is the most brightly shining star in the history of the literary contributions of the Jacobite Syrian church and its light will never fade away.

The Resident Metropolitan, the Principal, staff and students of M.S.O.T. Seminary express our condolence on the demise of Very Rev. Dr. Curien Arch-Corepiscopa, Kaniyamparambil on 19.10.2015

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