

balance the relationship of the individual within the family structure. It becomes obvious that these *sokdam* are not rules to live by alone but an integral part of Korean culture.

In many ways this book compares with Gibran's "The Prophet." Its style and universality are enjoyable and enlightening. I especially enjoyed the art work which matches the text. Many prints include a saying or beautifully drawn figure. All in all, these *sokdam* are a good book for beginning students of Korean culture.

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HUPPERTZ, JOS. und HERM. KÖSTER. *Kleine China-Beiträge*. Selbstverlag, München 1979, 174 pp.

The pages of this book, which was sent us for review, are devoted to two entirely different topics; Part I: "Das tragische Schicksal einer chinesischen Enzyklopädie" (the tragic fate of a Chinese encyclopedia) (1-75) by Jos. Huppertz; Part II: "Zur Philosophie des Hsün Ch'ing. Eine Parallele chinesischen und westlichen Denkens," by Herm. Köster (76-174). The request to review this book in our journal first puzzled me a little: shall I not have to twist the nature of their topics beyond recognition if a review were to fit in a folklore journal? But I found a way to soothe my editorial conscience.

In writing about Part I, I have first to familiarize the reader with the project of a Chinese encyclopedia which met with a tragic end. It was Pope Pius XI (Achille Ratti, 1922-1939) who conceived the idea of a Chinese encyclopedia as a means to spread Christianity among the Chinese intelligentsia. Thus one actor in the tragedy of the Chinese encyclopedia was the Pope. Another one was Father Wilhelm Schmidt, a world famous pioneer of cultural anthropology and science of religion, at that time Director of the Anthropos Institute and the Lateran Museum as well as professor at the University of Vienna. The Pope entrusted this scholar with the task of finding personnel and means for the realization of his lofty project when Schmidt was about to leave for the Far East on a lecture tour. The third actor in the tragedy was Father Hermann Köster who was holding a theological doctoral degree from Gregoriana University in Rome and who at that time had spent just four years in China studying the Chinese language while teaching in a training school for Chinese clergy. Both Joseph Grendel, Superior General of the Steyl missionaries, and Schmidt had cast an eye on this talented young priest whom they hoped to be the right man for the job of the editor-in-chief of the projected encyclopedia. Schmidt and Köster first explored the financial possibilities and liabilities with regard to the encyclopedia and found the cost prohibitive. As a modest solution of this difficulty they wanted instead to publish in one volume a book on the science of religion from the Catholic point of view. The Commercial Press in Shanghai was willing to be the publisher. Grendel however was definitely set against this watering down of the Pope's idea. Köster insisted that the encyclopedia, if possible, should be based on a Sino-theology and not on Thomistic scholasticism, ignoring the fact that a Sino-theology did not yet exist and could not be built up *ad hoc* in a short time.

Because of the objection he had raised Köster was removed from all responsibilities for the encyclopedia. Grendel went ahead with his plans and during the war years most manuscripts were written by German authors in Germany, and after the war, when China was no longer accessible, they were sent to Japan in order to be "sinified". Those very few whom the successor of Grendel wanted to entrust with the "sinification" of a big crate of manuscripts, pointed out that such a sinification could never be just a clerical work and that instead experts in theology and in a literary Chinese style were required. Red China was now closed, and from among the Overseas Chinese theologians and stylists could hardly be expected. Besides, if in spite of all these adversities the encyclopedia could see the light of the day, the returns on its sale among Overseas Chinese could never cover the phantastic expenses involved. Sad as it was, the Chinese encyclopedia became a stillborn child. Many years have since passed and the encyclopedia enthusiasts of yore are now no more. What remains of all the enthusiasm, excitement and arguments is a kind of a folktale: Westerners want to make a Chinese Encyclopedia.

Part II has been written by Hermann Köster under the title "Zur Philosophie des Hsün Ch'ing. Eine Parallele chinesischen und westlichen Denken (On the philosophy of Hsün Ch'ing, a parallel between Chinese and Western ways of thinking)." Köster who was a keen and advanced student of classic Chinese philosophy, in 1958 wrote the profound essay "Symbolik des chinesischen Universismus" and published in 1967 "Hsün-tzu ins Deutsche übertragen", a translation of Hsün-tzu, one of the leading Chinese philosophers of the third century B.C. If we mention such publications in our journal, it is because a folklorist who wants to work in the Far East, must take cognizance of the basic ideas of Chinese culture and civilization. Köster had, so to say, a special organ to sense the fundamental concepts and ventilated them in several articles and also in this book. To mention only a few: he analyzes macrosocial differentiation and the sense of duty (Pflichtgefühl), the importance of tradition, justice and propriety, peace and order, knowledge. So many concepts we carry along with us and take it for granted that we know what they mean. It is good to confront them with analogue concepts valid in other cultures in order to better understand their constitutive elements.

1. This book review has become Dr. Eder's last contribution to our journal. A short week after he had finished it, he passed away. As he himself says, this review may be unexpected in the pages of this journal, but it allows us a last glance at his editorial philosophy. (P.K.)

M.E. (1)

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DEPERT, JOACHIM. *Rudras Geburt. Systematische Untersuchungen zum Inzest in der Mythologie der Brāhmaṇas.* Beiträge zur Südasien-Forschung, Südasien-Institut, Universität Heidelberg, Band 28. Wiesbaden, Franz Steiner Verlag, 1977. LX+396 pp. Paper. ISBN 3-515-02583-9. (With English summary)

Recently, interest in India is growing and the appeal of her exotic religions and philosophies make themselves strongly felt in Europe or in the so-called West in general. This phenomenon however, is a product of what our author apostrophizes as the "guru-