

MOVING BEYOND PLURALISM

**Approaches Of Hans Küng and Seyyed Hossein Nasr
To Muslim-Christian Dialogue**

DISSERTATION

**A written assignment in partial fulfillment
Of the Doctoral Program from
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ABSTRACT

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APPROACHES OF HANS KÜNG AND SEYYED HOSSEIN NASR
TO MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN DIALOGUE

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[D] Key Words: *Philosophia Perennis* – Global Ethic – Dialogue

[E] Over the past decades Muslims and Christians have been engaged in dialogue. However, despite this effort there is still a chasm between them. An analysis of the existing approaches in dialogue of Exclusivism, Inclusivism has shown that none of these approaches are sufficient to explain the diversity of religions or help to engage in a serious and fruitful dialogue. Although Pluralism has made a breakthrough from the previous two existing approaches, it does bring with it some dangers; such as not taking seriously one's own religious identity, the danger of relativism with a denial of one's own truth claims in order to 'get on' with the other, and the danger of not really understanding and communicating with the other simply because we all meet the same Real.

As a response to these dangers, this research explores what lies beyond pluralism in the light of Küng and Nasr's theology and philosophy respectively. A study is made of how each of them articulates their own identity as well as their own religion's encounter with other religions. This takes the research further into understanding religious truth claims where followers are challenged to live by the religious truth of their own religions and in no way to deny them when they gain knowledge of the religion of their dialogue partner.

This research makes an attempt to explore specifically the contribution of Küng's Global Ethic and Nasr's *Philosophia Perennis* as a basis for Christian-Muslim Relations. The analysis of the philosophy of Nasr and Küng offer some very important attitudes that enable a serious and fruitful dialogue. They enter into a serious dialogue with clear integrity and sincere openness thus making an ongoing conversation, dialogue and understanding possible.

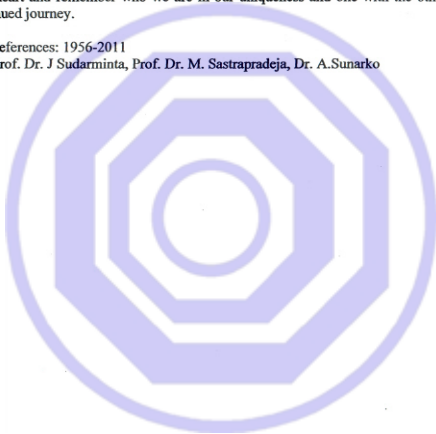
The thesis that Küng and Nasr's approaches can move beyond pluralism is seen in the light of three arguments – an openness to truth claims, a response to relativism and the approaches that retains the uniqueness of each religion. The reasons as to why this approach is important is explicated as being fruitful because it is the complementarity of the Global Ethic and *Philosophia Perennis* that can offer the understanding of one's own religious ethic and take one into the depths of one's own religion and the religion of the other. The theology of Küng and the philosophy of Nasr together can contribute to world peace through dialogue among religions.

Küng and Nasr's courage and openness to deal with the differences in each other's religion contribute to understanding and thus overcoming the misconceptions that Muslims and Christians have of each other's most dearly held beliefs. However, in order not to let this approach remain only an 'ideal theory' this research shows how the Global Ethic and *Philosophia Perennis* can be applied to daily life by all believers.

All people but particularly followers of religions of Islam and Christianity are obliged to come face to face in a community of truth. This can happen if both Muslims and Christians return to the truth of who they profess to be. Believers! It was seen how meeting the other in dialogue gives us the strength to choose the quiet truth of one's own heart and remember who we are in our uniqueness and one with the other on a continued journey.

[F] References: 1956-2011

[G] Prof. Dr. J Sudarminta, Prof. Dr. M. Sastrapradeja, Dr. A.Sunarko



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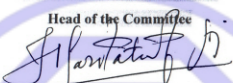

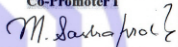



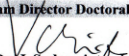
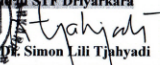
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