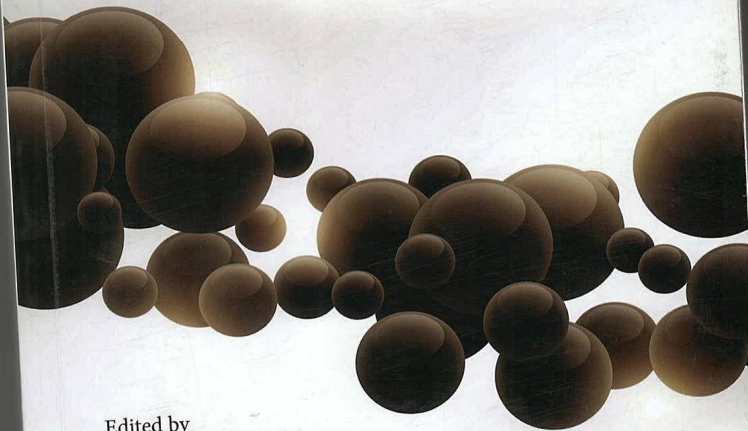


SCIENCE - RELIGION DIALOGUE AND ITS CONTEMPORARY SIGNIFICANCE

Interdisciplinary Essays in Honour of
Prof Dr Kuruvilla Pandikattu



Edited by
Binoy Pichalakkattu



Kuruvilla Pandikattu

Science-Religion dialogue has come a long way today both in the west and in the east. It has moved from the margin to the axis of academic scholarship, engaging several scholars, researchers and institutions. As of now, science-religion dialogue has taken deeper roots in India. With a sense of critical and creative openness, twenty scholars from India and abroad attempt to interface science and religion in consonance with the current scientific, philosophical and religious trends.

SCIENCE-RELIGION DIALOGUE AND ITS CONTEMPORARY SIGNIFICANCE is a tribute to Prof Dr Kuruvilla Pandikattu by his colleagues, students and conferrers.



Binoy Pichalakkattu

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CHAPTER FIVE

THE FLOWER'S LAST SIGH

M. Arif and Rehana Arif

Introduction

The great philosopher and poet Kahlil Gibran once said of trees: "Trees are poems that the earth writes upon the sky." A flower is unquestionably the most beautiful example of an evolutionary innovation that is believed to have been a major contributor to the diversification of flowering plants – the Angiosperms. Flowering plants dominate terrestrial ecosystems and as a major food source, are of outstanding importance for mankind.

The primary purpose of a flower is reproduction. Since flowers are the reproductive organs of plant they mediate the joining of the sperm, contained within pollen, to the ovules — enclosed in the ovary. Pollination is the movement of pollen from the anthers to the stigma. Non-flowering plants are those that do not produce flowers or seeds. They mainly reproduce using spores. The exception is gymnosperms that produce seeds, but not flowers. These include the ferns, mosses, fungi and ornamental plants.

With the ubiquity of flowers in our everyday lives, it is sometimes easy to overlook their central importance in the production of food and other materials on which human survival depends. The origin of flowering plant diversity, is intimately connected to the diversification of floral forms and floral biology, is also of great interest because as the dominant autotrophs of terrestrial environments, angiosperms provide the energy on which most of