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Dear Readers

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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

Dear Readers,

the cultures of India and the Far East are still an unflagging attraction to the rational West where the figure of Mahatma Gandhi is as much well considered as the charismatic persona of John Paul II. The religious abundance of Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism and also other religions – fascinates and embarrasses at the same time: is the Eastern aesthetics becoming the new icon of Truth for a European?

The scientific Symposium, organised by the Religious Sciences Section of the Theology Faculty under the supervision of Father Leonard Fic, PhD, entitled *A Cultural Dialogue of the West with the Indian and Far East Countries* (Warsaw, January 13, 2011) – is a brave attempt of a *dialogueous* opening to the value of cultures to which China, India, Japan, Korea and Vietnam determine the political borders.

While presenting the material from the Warsaw Symposium in “Nurt SVD’s” special issue – the Editorial Board would like to express our acclaim and recognition to all the speakers of the religious session for acquainting our Readers with the realities of the multi-dimensional religious pluralism of Asia (E. Sakowicz), and most of all – the theological and philosophical profoundness of Hinduism (L. Fic); these characteristics are, however, somehow hazed by the “tradition of violence” towards women in the Hindu society (A. Piwko). Many emotions bring the history of evangelisation of South Korea (M. Madej) and the finesse of the Christian and Buddhist dialogue on the example of Buddhist fine art (A. Szymaniak). Another, much delicate topic is the situation of the Buddhist minorities in Germany (Ł. Kaczmarczyk) and the conditions the Vietnamese migrants live in Poland (P. Staniszevska). A no banal discovery – as it occurs – is the inspiring function of the religious motifs in the Japanese Comics that gains both, from the beliefs of the East and the West (A. Sutkowska). The truth about the fundamental role of the spiritual element in the countries of India and the Far East is also expressed by the fact that the most representative of the Hindu cuisine – the Punjabi one – offers meals “connected with the Ayurweda tradition”, the holistic system of medicine, religion and philosophy (J. Kohman-Kulisiewicz). The cultural aesthetics of India and the Far East – fascinates and seduces.

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