Abstract of the Thesis

Mar Jacob of Sarug, one of the shining stars in the firmament of Syriac literature, had contributed innumerable volumes to the Syriac literature. His literary works contain and convey the glory of the particular culture, civilization etc. besides the valuable information on various branches of knowledge. But many of his valuable works are yet to be brought to light. Hence, believing that the rediscovery of the literary works of Mar Jacob is opportune and thus unfolding a huge treasury of the glorious past is very relevant and beneficial for today and for ever, I tried in this thesis to translate and analyse one of his greatest works, the ‘Four Mimre on Creation’.

The whole thesis is divided into four major parts: A, B, C and D. As a whole there are six chapters. Part A and chapter I contain the translations of the four mimre from Syriac to English. Part B and chapter II is an analysis on the literary aspects of the mimre as well as a proper appreciation on the poet. The part C is thematic analysis on the mimre which includes chapters III, IV and V. Chapter III is a collection of the poet’s anthropological thoughts. This has three sections: “Image and Likeness of God in man”, “Freedom and Freewill of Man” and “Anthropological concepts in the mimre”. Chapter IV deals about the theological notions of the poet. This has two sections: “God’s Mercy as the Catalytic Code”, and “Narrations on the Non-Corporeal beings”. And chapter V includes the soteriological aspects in the mimre with two sections: “Sin as the Soteriological Causality” and “Eschatological perceptions of the Poet”. Part D and chapter VI is a cultural analysis which includes impressions on enculturation in the mimre under the heading “Hellenic Influence in the Formation of the Mimre”.

It can faithfully be declared that no similar study on Mar Jacob had been done so far as I have approached and analysed him and his works in this thesis and hence my findings are genuine, unique and ever useful.

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