
Sir, The post-human has arrived. One of the greatest threats to humanity now is the arrival of Artificial Intelligence. AI will soon replace the basic theo-anthropological structure/unit of the human family in the here and now. Unless we act today, it will existentially threaten both our religions. How do we counter the seductions of AI? We start learning from what Hinduism and Roman Catholicism teaches us about silence. AI can pretend to be silent even when it is highly evolved as it will be. But it cannot remain truly silent. The cornerstone of Hinduism is Yoga which is rooted ontologically in the absence of the modifications of the mind or, inner chatter. The Yoga Sutras have methods to silence the monkey-mind. This same tradition we find in Roman Catholicism which has time-tested ways which help us transition from the restless economy of the tyrannical Pharaoh's time to the time of God who invites us to contemplate Him within His relaxed time. The time of YHWH is relaxed and silent. For me, of course, God is Mother and Her; since I am a Shakti sadhak. AI simply has no use for silence. We need to discuss online and in this paper on the likes of Thomas à Kempis and Trailanga Swami. Both emphasised silence. Both invite us to not speak even about good things. It is not for nothing that St. James warns us that the tongue is a burning fire. AI can pretend to contemplate God qua Brahman qua Shakti. But it has no use for the transcendent. And in both our religions, the idea of the holy derives from the practice of interior and exterior silence. More than a decade ago I wrote on St. Edith Stein in this paper, and in 2022, I spoke at length on Stein and Samkhya while delivering the de Nobili Endowment Lecture at the International Jesuit Centre for Philosophical Excellence, Satya Nilayam at Chennai. Edith Stein's phenomenology and Samkhya both are rooted in silence, and it is from that phenomenological silence, we have empathy. It is this empathy which opens the door for

interreligious dialogue for both religions. Without this Samkhya oriented silence, explored by Edith Stein in her philosophical corpus, we have no chance against AI. Already most of us are trapped within the unforgiving economy of the Pharaoh's over-consumption and unnecessary production. 'Maun' or silence, is the cornerstone of both our religions and it is a rebellion against the Pharaoh's regime. We ignore 'being silent' at great peril by busying ourselves with redundant activities which will not allow us to contemplate the burning, dazzling beauty of the glory and liberty of the Supreme Godhead so well represented by the Jesuit poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins.

I would recommend my Catholic sisters and brothers to explore my religion's methods of silencing ourselves in the here and now. I on my part love the Rule of the Camaldoli. Those of us interested in silence and the reclusive life for the sake of the Supreme Godhead; let us unite here and online and continue the interreligious dialogue project. Too much talk is tiresome and a waste of time. Rather, we should learn from each other --- Hindu meditation is not Catholic recollection. While I need to apply Catholic methods of recollection and contemplative Adoration to my chosen charism as a Shakti upasak; the time is nigh that Catholics need to begin a renewed engagement with the Yoga Sutras and an altogether new engagement with our Agamas and other lesser-known scriptures. They all teach methods of silence for the sake of our brother and God.

Let us unite together against this new form that inhumanity has taken. And defeat it through love for one another. Love for the other comes not through many words. Love, indeed, cannot be conveyed in words at all; it is through silence that we go to encounter God of whom AI certainly has no use for.

Yours truly,

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