

Report of Activity on Special Lecture titled ‘The Concept of God According to the Western Thought: A Critical Analysis.’

The Department of Philosophy, Pachhunga University College, Aizawl held a Special Lecture on 10th October 2022. The title of the Special Lecture was ‘**The Concept of God According to the Western Thought: A Critical Analysis.**’ The Special Lecture was delivered by Dr. Pius V. Thomas, Associate Professor and Head of Department, Assam University, Silchar, Assam.

The resource person traced how different philosophers conceived of the ultimate reality which we commonly call as God. However, his talk was focused on the post-metaphysical concept of God. In the post-metaphysical and post-empiricist concepts of reason, there is more space for understanding faith as a personal search for meaning. In texts such as ‘Post-Metaphysical Thought’ Habermas reminded his readers that religion is an existential necessity that is ‘indispensable in ordinary life.’ In the face of suffering, it is only natural for people to turn to faith. While not personally ‘religiously motivated,’ Habermas understood that for a good part of the population, religion offers ‘consolation.’ Religion, which is defined by beliefs, cannot claim to apply universally nor be justified rationally. Habermas no longer believes we can rely on ‘the anonymous gods of post-Hegelian metaphysics,’ which is to say the Marxist model of intelligence and the transformation of the world. Instead, we must have recourse to religion. The religion to which he refers is the ‘true’ religion, which, in a Weberian manner, he holds is structured around a relationship with the transcendent. He references religions of the Axial Age (Karl Jaspers), Judaism and Christianity in particular, and to a lesser extent Islam.

The event was chaired by M. S. Dawngliana, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, PUC. There was an opening remark by Dr. Vanlalvenpuia, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, PUC. The Head of the Department, Emily F Lalnunpuii, Department of Philosophy also expressed her gratitude to Dr. Thomas. The entire event was held in the Seminar Hall, Pachhunga University College. It was a packed hall consisting of both students and faculty members from the Philosophy Department.


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