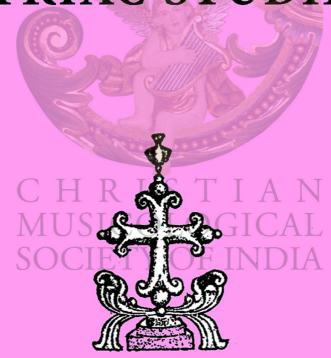


## AN INTRODUCTION TO SYRIAC STUDIES



Fr. Emmanuel Thelly C.M.I.



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## Introduction to Syriac Studies.

(Mini Syriac Grammar)

This booklet is just an introduction to Syriac studies. The Grammar of Fr. Gabriel (1922) of Fr. Ludovic (1951); of Fr. Jerome (1944) and mine (1961) as well as the erudite grammar of Rev. Fr. Thomas Arayathinal (1957, 1959); of Mar Aprem (1981) etc. are there for scholars or those interested in further studies. Rev.Dr. Thomas Koonammakkal was behind the making of these notes.

The languages of the world can be divided into five main families: The Aryan (Indo-European); Semitic, Mongolian, Dravidian, and the Negroid. Hebrew, Aramaic (Syriac), Assyrian, Arabic etc. are of the Semetic family.

Aramaic/Syriac is one of the oldest of languages; and hence very simple. Our Lord Jesus Christ and his mother, Bl. Virgin Mary and the Apostles spoke the same. Some parts of the Old Testament, and the Gospel of St. Mathew were originally written in Syriac.

European scholars use either the Chaldean or Western pronunciation. No one is faithful to our ancient Indian tradition. Even in the Assyrian Church of the East (Trichur) they pronounce many words and some vowels like the westerners, probably from the influence of those Jacobite priests who helped them to translate their liturgical books. As to their pronunciation of certain words the influence of some modern Middle Eastern Syriac teachers as well may not be denied.

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The pronunciation and numerical value of the consonants:



The vowels are expressed by certain dots above or below the letters with or without certain consonants.

2 3 01 0 3 2 3 & These letters are not joined to the following letter nor do they touch each other.

There are no doubled letters in Syriac. But we pronounce some letters doubled, under certain conditions and this mode of pronunciation is called Doubling.

Similarly, we pronounce two letters as one under certain particular situations and is called Assimilation.



The Personal Pronouns:

They she he

Of the third person: مُعني مُعق مُعة مُعة

You (pl.) you (sing.)

Of the second person: نِكُمُو مِنْ فَكُوْمِ عِنْكُمُو فَكُوْمِ فَكُوْمِ فِكُمُو فَكُوْمِ فَكُومِ فَالْعِنْ فَكُومِ فَالْعِنْ فَكُومِ فَالْعِنْ فَالْعِنْ فَالْعِنْ فَالْعِنْ فَالْعِنْ فَالْعِنْ فَالْعِنْ فَالْعِنْ فِي فَالْعِنْ فَالْعِنْ فِي فَالْعِنْ فَالْعِنْ فَالْعِنْ فِي فَالْعِنْ فِي فَالْعِنْ فِي فَالْعِنْ فِي فَالْعِنْ فِي فَالْعِنْ فَالْعِنْ فِي فَالْ

<sup>7</sup>e

Of the first person:

The personal pronouns can be used as verb to be in the present tense agreeing with the subject in gender number and person, eg. (You are Joseph).

I

Note: 1) When they are used as verbs the 2 of كَنْدُ and the ص of مِنْ are occulted (marked by a small line above and are not pronounced). eg. كُنْدُ بُدُو (I am Jesus) (He is Mathew) مِنْ مِنْ مِنْ مِنْ مِنْ

Note 2) When an is joined to an the second of is changed into (yod) and becomes معمور eg.

The verbal form used alone can show the subject also. هُمْدُ يُعْمُونُ (You are Thomas)
. كَانُو الْمُعْمَا لَا am Joseph. .كَانُو الْمُعْمَا لَا am Mathew.

The third person plurals used as verbs are 12. eg. eg. Rem.1) As pronouns they are used in the accusative case.

2) كَنَاءُ عِنْ and on are usually fused together as مَكْنَا: كِنَامُو مِعْنِيْنَ: كِنَامُ عَلَى (2

ن بنکور کور چې اونه د بنکې کې کې اونه د بنکې کې کې اونه د بنکې د بنکې کې کې اونه د بنکې کې کې د بنکې د بنکې کې د بنکې کې د بنکې کې د بنکې د بنکې کې د بنکې کې د بنکې کې د بنکې کې د بنکې د بنکې

نَهُم دِبِکچِم کچِم کچِم حجِم نَهُهُ، دِبِکجِهُ، کَجِهُ، کَجِهُ، حَجِهُ، خَبُ یقع دیک کب حب حب شفی دیگر کِم کِم جُم،

The enclitic form of the personal pronouns are called inseparable pronouns. They are grouped into different sets to be added to nouns verbs and particles. The first group added to nouns ending in 2. can easily be derived from the declension of the personal pronouns.

(The other groups can be formed/learned from these).



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