

A Report on a Talk on Khasi Religion – 15th December, 2021

The Philosophy Department, Shillong College, Shillong organized a talk on “Khasi Religion” on the 15th December, 2021 as part of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Statehood of Meghalaya.

Dr. S.S. Khongkham, Principal of Sngap Syiem College, Mawkyrwat attended the Talk as the resource person. He highlighted on the concept of God (U Blei) in Khasi religion that the Khasi believes in one God.



He said that even though the Khasi attributed “U” or “Ka” (he/she) to God, such as “Ka ‘lei synshar” and “U Nongbuh Nongthaw” (Planner/ Creator), “U Nongseng Nongpynlong (the Giver or Dispenser of life), etc. yet the Khasi believes that God is beyond gender because he is the Almighty God. And all the above names of God refer to one God only.

Dr. S.S. Khongkham also said that the Khasi also localised or contextualise the name of God such as U ‘lei Shyllong, U ‘lei Umtong (God of water), U ‘lei Longspah (God of wealth). In spite of the various names given to God (U Blei). Yet these are only localized names, in reality He is a universal God and these names refer to one God only.



Dr. S.S. Khongkham pointed out another fact about the Khasi that they believe that God is present everywhere. He is both immanent and transcendent to the world and He is also a self-existent God.

Another fact that Dr. S.S. Khongkham emphasized was that the Khasi did not have Scripts or alphabets in the early days before 1841 when Thomas Jones came to Sohra and introduced the Khasi alphabet in Roman Scripts. Before this, the Khasi passed on their records through the words of mouth. So, the history of the Khasi religion was passed orally from one generation to another.

Dr. (Mrs) E.Kharkongor. Principal of Shillong College, in her address talked about the importance of understanding Khasi religion so that the people will understand its facets, which is the basis of the Khasi culture and beliefs.