

Russian Professor speaks on faith and reason at KU

Srinagar, June 10: Saying that there was no clear cut distinction between reason and faith, Dr. Victoria Lysenko, research professor at the Institute of Philosophy, Russian Academy of Sciences Moscow, Russia Thursday opined that faith does not require clarification from the side of reason.

Dr. Lysenko, Russian research scholar of Buddhism was speaking at a lecture ‘faith and reason’, organized by Centre for Central Asian Studies (CCAS) of University of Kashmir. The session was presided over by Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof Riyaz Punjabi.



“Faith or belief, and reason” said Dr. Lysenko “are commonly seen as being fundamentally in opposition to each other”. However, said the scholar this presumption of a sharp opposition between belief and reason, is being re-examined and discussed .

“Within Buddhist tradition, the relationship between faith and reason has been subject of sustained inquiry since ancient times” said Dr. Lysenko. She said that while this tradition was always held that Buddha's enlightenment could not be grasped or expressed in its entirety by reason or language, Buddhism, she said had consistently held that reason and language should be highly valued.

Prof Punjabi while speaking at the occasion said that the concept of self realization had its roots in most of world religion and also in Islam. “Self realization or the concept of *‘Know thyself’* is present in all religions albeit in various forms and this concept helps achieve the ultimate goal – the truth” he added. VC expressed hope that such intellectual discourses would help in intellectual growth of scholars and students of the university. “New dimensions of understanding would certainly open up with such interactions and I look forward to more sessions of such nature in future as well” he added.

Dean College Development Council and Director Area Studies Program (CCAS), Prof. M A Kaw, also coordinator of the lecture on the occasion said that the presentation of the scholar was relevant in this present age of conflict. “It was ethically and morally a good lesson in the case of global competition” he added. Prof. Kaw was pre-emptive of introspecting oneself in the face of growing temptations in the globalized world.

Earlier while welcoming the guests, Prof. G N Khaki introduced the guest and gave an overview of the theme. Director CCAS, Prof. G M Mir in his address thanked the guest for enlightening the audience through her thought provoking presentation. He also thanked Director Area Studies, Prof. M A Kaw for arranging this lecture for the scholars and students of the centre. Vote of thanks on the occasion was delivered by senior faculty of CCAS, Prof. G N Khaki.