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# SYRO - CHALDAIC GRAMMAR

ܣܝܪܘ ܚܠܕܝܐܝܟܐ

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By

Fr. Gabriel of St. Joseph T. O. C. D.

Revised by

Fr. Emmanuel, C. M. I.

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CHRISTIAN  
MUSICOLOGICAL  
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# Syro - Chaldaic

(ARAMAIC)

## GRAMMAR

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## PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

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The want of a complete Grammar of the Syro-Chaldaic language has long and keenly been felt by students and teachers alike in this country. The almost general neglect of this Sacred language by the Syrians of Malabar is to a great extent due to this want, and my aim in writing the following pages is to revive as far as it is in me, the study of Syro-Chaldaic language in our country. The seriousness of the work I was to put my hands to, and my inability to perform it kept me long from undertaking it. Even after I had once begun the work, I have had to meet with several obstacles. One by one the obstacles were removed, and by the grace of God I am able now to present before the public the fruit of years of labour. I am fully confident that the indulgent public will patronize it. If this work in any way helps the student to acquire proficiency in the Syro-Chaldaic language. I shall think my labours amply rewarded.

A word may be added about the method of treatment. The book is divided into four parts, each part treating on the four parts of Grammar, Orthography, Etymology, Syntax and Prosody. The Orthography of a dead language has necessarily to be long; and almost one eighth of the book had to be devoted to this part of Grammar. The distinctions between the Eastern and Western dialects are pointed out as occasion offered; and the errors, in pronunciation which have crept in among the Syro-Chaldeans of Malabar, have been noted in the observations as *peculiarities*. It is to be desired that these *Peculiarities* would be suppressed.\* In the treatise on Etymology it was ever my look out to be as brief and clear as possible. The never-ending paradigms, which occupied a major portion of old grammars, have been omitted as superfluous. The

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\* The present tendency is to keep us our tradition.



difficult parts of Etymology like *gender*, *number* and *gedhama* have been elucidated by a few general rules, Syntax and Prosody are perhaps the easiest parts of Syriac Grammar. The precepts of Syntax and Prosody are substantiated by copious examples, taken from the Scriptures, the Breviary and works of authors like St. Ephrem, Barhebraeus, Audo etc. The treatise on Prosody is far from being exhaustive. But what is said of Syriac hymnody is more than sufficient for the requirements of the average student.

As for the sources, I have to own my indebtedness to the various Syriac grammars written in Syriac, Latin, Malayalam (Karshon) and English. The ܐܘܕܘܢܐ ܕܩܕܝܫܐ of Jeremtas Makdasi and the ܐܘܕܘܢܐ ܕܩܕܝܫܐ ܕܐܘܕܘܢܐ of Mgr. Thomas Audo the late Archbishop of Ourmiah of happy memory have been of inestimable use in ascertaining the genuine Chaldaic orthography and idiom.

I take this occasion to express my gratitude to my many co-operators and well-wishers who helped me in various ways. My special thanks are due to the Rev. Fr. Ludovic Hananisho of the Mother of Sorrows T. O. C. D. who has been of considerable service to me in bringing the work to a speedy and successful completion.

Now I render thanks to God who granted me to finish the work I had begun years ago.

The Author.



## PREFACE TO THE REVISED SEVENTH EDITION

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Since the grammar of Rev. Fr. Gabriel was written with a view to satisfy the needs of the beginners and since many of the present Syriac professors are well acquainted with it, the demand for it was very keenly felt. But it is not available now. Leaving aside the masterly work of Rev. Fr. Ludovic and the elaborate, scholarly work of Rev. Fr. Arayathinal for the advanced and for the intelligentia, we have attempted a work in improving Rev. Fr. Gabriel's Grammar just to be a help to the students.

In this new edition, we have tried a scientific and new approach to the subject. It is the outcome of the studies and teaching experience of many, especially of a few of the C. M. I. fathers. The introduction to the Syriac Language and Literature by late Rev. Fr. Romeo Thomas as given in the first edition has been revised adding new phases to it.

Suggestions for improvement are quite welcome and we assure to honour them in the next edition.

*Mannanam,*  
1—6—1984

**Fr. Emmanuel C. M. I.**



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