

b) The abandonment of superstition:

The most striking features of the impact of Christianity was 'superstitious beliefs'. The Hrangkhols lived with various kinds of beliefs and practices in early days. They believed in the existence of good (benevolent) spirits and evil (malevolent) spirits. The evil spirits were malignant to human beings and caused misfortune, illness, calamities if a person encroaches their sacred habitations. So, it was believed that human beings were subjected to the numerous evil spirits which could only be appeased by sacrifice with adequate animals. To avert fear, anger and recover from illness, sacrifices with appropriate animals are required to propitiate these evil spirits. This bloody sacrifices were a great burden to the people. But when they embraced Christianity, this bloody sacrifices were totally abandoned. They felt that Christ set them free from danger, fear and power of spirits. And they have come to believe that Christ has authority over Satan and evil spirits. Christianity liberated the people from the enslavement and fear of spirits. As M.M. Thomas said, "Christianity came as a liberator from spiritual and social demons".⁶ Beliefs in all multifarious spirits and in the efficiency of appeasement through bloody sacrifices were replaced by the New Faith.

c. Transformation concerning the roles of priests and prophets:

In pre-Christian days, these roles were confined to males alone. The prophets as well as priests practised soothsaying, divination, sorcery and wizardry which caused the people fear.⁷ This prophetic and priestly roles were transformed by Christianity into a new unique order. Chantings of the priests were replaced by

⁶ C.B.Firth, *An Introduction to Indian Church History*, Revised Edition, Reprinted, Madras, 1989, p.277.

⁷ Interview with Thindarngir of Loskor, on 9th May, 1997.