

# Table of Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Preface .....  | 7  |
| 1. Introduction  |    |
| 1.1 Roberto de Nobili’s Apologetics and the Impasse in the<br>Jesuit Missionary Project .....                        | 9  |
| 1.2 From Roberto de Nobili to Costanzo Gioseffo Beschi .....   | 11 |
| 2. Some Groundwork for Our Understanding of Beschi’s<br>Literary Project   |    |
| 2.1 Moral Dispositions for Mission and Religious Instruction<br>in Beschi’s <i>Vētiyāroḷukkam</i> .....              | 17 |
| 2.2 Beschi’s Use of the <i>Tirukkuraḷ</i> .....  | 22 |
| 2.3 The Cultivation of Virtue and Christian Exemplarity .....  | 24 |
| 2.3.1 <i>Tirukkuraḷ</i> 3: “The Greatness of Ascetics” .....   | 26 |
| 2.3.2 <i>Tirukkuraḷ</i> 4: “Asserting the Strength of Virtue” .....  | 28 |
| 2.3.3 <i>Tirukkuraḷ</i> 38: “The Indisputability of Divine<br>Decrees” .....   | 30 |
| 3. <i>Tēmpāvaṇi</i> as a Work of the Christian Imagination   |    |
| 3.1 The Very Idea of <i>Tēmpāvaṇi</i> .....  | 33 |
| 3.2 The Story Line of <i>Tēmpāvaṇi</i> .....   | 36 |
| 3.3 Joseph as the Man of Natural and Imbued Virtue .....   | 40 |
| 3.4 A Note on the Early Jesuit Piety of St. Joseph .....   | 40 |
| 3.5 Joseph as a Young Man .....  | 43 |
| 3.6 Joseph as Participant in the Drama of the Incarnation .....  | 47 |
| 4. Sources of Inspiration and Authorization  |    |
| 4.1 <i>Tēmpāvaṇi</i> and Tamil Epic — Kampan’s <i>Rāmāyaṇa</i> and<br>Tiruttakkatēvar’s <i>Cīvakacintāmaṇi</i> ..... | 59 |
| 4.2 María of Ágreda .....  | 67 |
| 4.3 The Ignatian Imagination .....   | 71 |
| 5. Joseph in Egypt: The Heart of <i>Tēmpāvaṇi</i>  |    |
| 5.1 Introductory Remarks on Chapters 27 to 29 of<br><i>Tēmpāvaṇi</i> .....   | 75 |
| 5.2 Joseph in Egypt, Act 1 (Chapter 27) .....  | 76 |
| 5.2.1 Opening Narrative and Instruction .....  | 77 |
| 5.2.2 Karma, Rebirth, and the Conversion of Civācivaṇ .....  | 82 |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 5.2.3 Debating the Nature of God .....   | 89  |
| 5.2.4 De Nobili's Definition of "God" .....  | 91  |
| 5.2.5 Beschi's Definition of "God" .....   | 92  |
| 5.2.6 Egypt at the Dawn of Salvation .....   | 95  |
| 5.2.7 A Note on María of Ágreda's Presentation of the<br>Egyptian Sojourn .....  | 97  |
| 5.3 Joseph in Egypt, Act 2 (Chapter 28)  |     |
| 5.3.1 Self Restraint and the Problem of Lust .....   | 100 |
| 5.3.2 The Demonic, Punishment, and Hell .....  | 106 |
| 5.3.3 Vāmaṇ's Conversion as an Exemplar .....  | 110 |
| 5.3.4 Jesuit Drama and <i>Tēmpāvaṇi</i> .....  | 112 |
| 5.4 Joseph in Egypt, Act 3 (Chapter 29) .....  | 117 |
| 5.4.1 Curami's Machinations and Her Recruitment of<br>Nāvakaṇ .....  | 118 |
| 5.4.2 The Counter-Instruction by Kuṇṇaṇ .....  | 123 |
| 5.4.3 Joseph's Final Teaching and the Conversion of<br>Nāvakaṇ .....   | 125 |
| 5.5 Concluding Observations on Joseph's Ministry in Egypt ...  | 130 |
| 6. Beschi's Vision of Mission  |     |
| 6.1 Beschi's Understanding of Christian and Jesuit Mission ....  | 133 |
| 6.2 Beschi and de Nobili Revisited .....   | 134 |
| 6.3 Is <i>Tēmpāvaṇi</i> a Model for Twenty-First Century Inter-<br>religious Learning? .....   | 135 |
| Appendices   |     |
| Appendix 1: A Note on Beschi's Very Catholic Theology of<br>Scripture and Tradition and the Protestant Critique of<br><i>Tēmpāvaṇi</i> ..... | 137 |
| Appendix 2: A Note on Beschi's Vocabulary for Sacred<br>Books .....  | 147 |
| Appendix 3: Transcribed Tamil Text of the Verses and Prose<br>Passages in Beschi's Works Translated in This Essay                            |     |
| 1. <i>Tēmpāvaṇi</i> .....  | 151 |
| 2. <i>Vētiyāroḷukkam</i> .....   | 187 |
| References   |     |
| Primary Sources and Translations .....   | 189 |
| Secondary Sources .....  | 191 |