

Contents

Acknowledgements IX

Introduction: The Early Modern Jesuit Attitude toward Hindu
and Ethiopian Strains of Asceticism 1

1 A Comparative View of Jesuits and Ascetics 1

1 Historical Background to the Jesuit–Eastern Ascetic Encounter 17

1 The Missions and the Portuguese *Padroado* of the East 17

2 The Jesuit Experience in India and Ethiopia 22

3 The Jesuit Approach to Asceticism: in Search of Symmetry 37

4 Hindu Ascetism 53

2 Understanding Ethiopian Asceticism 61

1 Interest in the Origins of Ethiopian Asceticism 62

2 Description and Assessment of the Ethiopian Ascetic 72

3 The Danger of Relaxing Ascetic Norms 78

4 The Virtues of the Virgin and the Question of Who Is
a Good Christian 87

5 Conclusion 95

3 Jesuits and Yogis: Description and Ambivalence 97

1 The Visual Impact of Yogis 97

2 Yogi as Role Model (*Imitatio yogii*) 100

3 The Excesses of the Renunciants 106

4 Conclusion 112

4 Confronting Yogis and Ethiopian Monks 115

1 Doctrinal Errors and “Inadequate” Biblical Exegesis
of Ethiopian Monks 123

2 Degenerate Christianity 139

3 Conclusion 148

5 Another Polemical Front: Faith, Healing, and Medicine 150

1 Exorcisms and Healing 155

2 Salvation through Images, Relics, Crosses, and Amulets 163

3 Volatility, Social Tensions, and Natural Disasters 167

4 The Allure of Shrines 172

5 Conclusion 177

6 Jesuit Ambitions to Convert Ascetics	179
1 The Motivations of Converts and the Genuine Conversion Dilemma	184
2 “Conversion of the Heart”: the Jesuit Approach to the Evangelization of the Yogis	186
3 The Conversion of Ethiopian Monks	195
4 Coercion, Intimidation, and Punishment	204
5 Fake Catholics	209
6 Conclusion	212
Conclusion	215
Bibliography	221
Index	248