

philosophy dealt with existential problems and, therefore, it is no wonder that it had predominantly practical character. It never developed the purely theoretical attitude characteristics of Greek philosophy. In the early Confucian and Taoist tradition metaphysical questions, such as what is real or unreal were not raised as in Indian traditions. In this sense, India has been closer to the Greek ways of thinking and consequently to the Western frame of mind than China according to one of the speakers.

**Saurabh Sanatani**

Vienna

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## *Wittgenstein and the Future of Philosophy : 24<sup>th</sup> International Wittgenstein Symposium*

EVERY YEAR IN SUMMER, THE AUSTRIAN LUDWIG Wittgenstein Society holds a philosophical meeting at Kirchberg am Wechsel, a beautiful mountain near Vienna, Austria from 12 to 18 August, 2001. The theme for the symposium was ***Wittgenstein and the Future of Philosophy : A Reassessment after 50 Years***. My report on the Centenary Meeting in 1989 was published in the Indian Science Cruiser, Vol 4, No 1, January 1990. This year marked the 50th Anniversary of

the death of Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951) , perhaps the most significant philosopher of our times. He was born in Vienna, but went to England in 1929 and acquired British citizenship in 1938.

The Anniversary Meeting was attended by 270 participants from 38 countries and the range of subjects in the papers presented in the plenary and the parallel sessions covered all the aspects of Wittgenstein's philosophy and its recent interpretations. There was one participant from India; though another participant was expected, she could not make it to the meeting for some unforeseen reason.

It was a large meeting and the tight schedule was strictly followed. There was some opportunity for informal discussion outside the meeting. The sunny weather and the natural scenery provided an excellent background for such exchange of views. My paper bore the title *Philosophy as a Guide to Life?* And was well received.

Next year the 25th Symposium will be held from 11th to 17th August 2002 and the topic will be *Persons : An Interdisciplinary Dialogue*. Professor Edmund Runggaldier of Innsbruck, I was told, will be in charge of organisation. Needless to say, Kirchberg meetings offer an excellent opportunity for Wittgenstein scholars and other interested people to exchange thoughts in a pleasant surrounding.

**Saurabh Sanatani**

Vienna

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