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## SHORT STUDIES

IN THE

## SCIENCE OF COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS

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## SHORT STUDIES

 <br> in THE <br> \title{SCIENCE OF COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS
} <br> EMBRACING <br> ALL THE RELIGIONS OF ASIA <br> BY <br> Major-General J. G. R. FORLONG <br> F.R.S.E., F.R.A.S., M.A.I., Etc. <br> aUthor of "rivers of lifz" <br> WITH MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS <br> LONDON <br> BERNARD QUARITCH, 15 PICCADILLY. <br> 1897 <br> (All rights reserved)
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## PREFACE

The following "Short Studies" on very important subjects are published at the urgent request of friends who have read them in a less complete state in an encyclopædia of religious terms, rites and symbolisms, upon which the author has been engaged for a great many years, and out of which grew his previous volumes. Other subjects might have been selected as more popular, but none could be so vital or fundamental, and as regards religious ideas, so all-embracing.

This volume is virtually an epitome of religions, but is rather for the general reader than the specialist, for it shows the former the result of the researches of the latter, and the important scope of these; and it is hoped makes the general literary position more assured. The public are rarely equipped with the necessary information on which to form a judgment, so that much precious time and literary labour is often wasted in arguing or rehearsing matters, which have long passed beyond the province of controversy.

The work of the specialist is rarely attractive to the public, because it is not only technical but destructive and seems to surround one with pitfalls and uncertainty. lt is the work of the expositor to search solid ground and the task is often as thankless as it is laborious. He must popularise as far as possible, the knowledge hid away in dusty tomes, and scattered in home and foreign magazines, as well as in scientific journals. Nor will his services receive much appreciation, for he is certain to run athwart many current theories and practices, feelings and
opinions. It is with knowledge as it is with commodities. There is no feeling evoked in technical or abstract pursuits. One may observe facts, study laws, excavate tombs and translate texts with impunity, but it is otherwise when as in this case we apply the information thus obtained, to existing institutions; when we undertake the formidable task of comparing one religion with another; in order to show the origin and development of each.

The great difficulty is to do this without bias, and within a limited number of pages, for all the sacred scriptures of the world must be studied, their leading doctrines, deities and varied sects set forth, considered and compared, each with each, as well as the adventitious circumstances which have advanced and retarded growths; and finally we must help the general reader to some definite and useful conclusions on the whole and its parts. But he too has a task. He must brace himself up to bear with equanimity, if not sympathy, the free handling of many sacred subjects. Both the reader and the expositor are face to face with deep-rooted religious prejudices, embracing many political, pecuniary and social interests, which it becomes us all to study calmly and sympathetically, but of course without favor. Let us hope that in time reliable evidence and facts will be listened to and finally accepted. Though exceedingly anxious to avoid giving offence to the votaries of any faith, the author has, of course, been equally anxious not to slur over the facts or to suppress the logical deductions therefrom, but to state these clearly, assured that the truth is ultimately in the best interests of all, as some one said: "It requires no authority . . . wears no mask; bows to no shrine; seeks neither place nor applause; asks only to be heard."

The public will also, it is hoped, extend some forbearance
towards, if it cannot appreciate, the very mild spelling reform which the author has advocated for some twenty years and which be also introduced into Rivers of Life (1881), for reasons urged in his preface, p. xxxvi. et seq. The subject is one of far wider importance, as Prof. Mahaffy lately showed (Nineteenth Century, Nov. 1896), than the home public imagine. It is in fact as useful and necessary as the introduction of a decimal system of money, weights and measures; and those two reforms would result in an immense saving of time and energy in our schools-a saving that might be expressed by millions sterling per annum.

A corrected spelling means however, much trouble to authors and printers, for it is not easy even when as in this case we print our own writings, to convert the press to our opinions; printers giving scant respect to our courageous resolve to drop unsounded and double letters. Our spelling is also in the meantime inconsistent; arising from a desire to minimise the difficulties of readers in understanding our subject and its terms, as well as from the necessity of abstaining from a too sudden and confusing reformation. It is necessary here to move slowly and almost unnoticed, but we must not stand still. Fortunately even the philologists are with us, for Prof. Max Müler told the world twenty years ago, and repeats to-day (Fort. Rev., April 1876 and Feb. '97), that there is no supposed sanctity or etymological value in our present hap-hazard system: We are now content with the orthografy of the first chapter of Genesis, though the writers of a hundred years ago would consider it had one hundred and twenty errors in spelling.

Our guiding principle here has been that long ago adopted by the Governments of India and most oriental scholars; viz., not to change the present spelling or vocalization of world-wide names,
as Calcutta and Cawnpore; wrong and absurd though these may be, but in all other cases to follow, phonetically if possible, the oldest vernaculars, and by such transliteration as is laid down in the S.B. East series of 1879 modified by the later codes of the R. Geog. Soc. and Indian Antiquary series of 1891-3.

We have found it necessary to make a few exceptions, as for example where the spelling of a name hides the root to be elucidated; some names we also spell in different ways, so as to familiarize the reader with these as they appear and are vocalized in different languages and tribes. Sundry ordinary scientifik words are also improved phonetikaly by using $k s$ rather than the varying Latin cs or cks, and the affectation of a century or two ago for $p h$ 's instead of $f^{\prime} s$; also by omitting some prominently useless double letters, gutturals and drawls. Many will doubtless decline to accept even a "milenium" without two $l s$ and two $n s$, and like Scotchmen insist on two $n s$ for " manners" though continuing to drawl out mä... n ers.

Prof. Mahaffy says: "Only pedants support the (orthographical) conservative spirit of the vulgar . . . standing in the van of those who frustrate the advance of English throughout the world . . . it is the stay-at-home who has written no language but his own. . . . It is not our grammar, which is easy, or our grammatical forms which are very few, but it is our spelling which is the great obstacle. . . . It has not for a long time represented our pronunciation with any approach to accuracy or consistency. . . . Yet with pedants it has become the main test" of an educated man, and three or four orthographical mistakes suffice to exclude an otherwise well-qualified youth from the public services. "Even the few slight and timid changes introduced by Americans," he continues, " are all accounted vulgarisms by our purists, who fail to see that this
stupid adherence to an irrational and artificial orthography not only isolates Britain, but prevents a world-wide future for the English language, and continues to rivet the chains which condemn our children to waste so much precious time in learning to spell contrary to their utterance." Let us all try "to accustom the vulgar English public to a certain indulgence or laxity in spelling, so as to gradually approach a reasonably consistent orthography. . . . This will lighten the task of every foreigner . . . and give him some chance of learning English from books, and show him that violation from English usage is no deadly crime." The italics are ours.

With these explanations we trust our Studies, the result of no little labour, will meet with the earnest and sympathetik attention of an enlightened publik.

## INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER

Having to treat largely of many very ancient and obscure events and peoples, their meagre and hazy histories, legends, religious doctrines, rites and customs, we have, with the view of keeping close to generally acknowledged facts, embodied the result of much laborious study of a considerable and often rare literature, in three sets of chronological tables, which cannot fail to be of great use to students. The very early prehistorik dates are of course subject to constant revision, being more or less constructive chronology, which though necessary to keep before us, is more than any other liable to be upset by fresh discoveries alike in the laboratory of archeologists and scientists, or by the explorer's spade.

Each chronological table confines itself mainly to those subjects treated of in its chapter or section, but to make the details more interesting and so help the memory, there is added some synchronous matters of general history, and a free running commentary drawing attention to what is specially noteworthy. Thus the chronological table at end of Study $I$. gives in due sequence the rise and progress of the religious sectaries of Central Asia, with India as a center, their developments, and especially the ethikal, political and social movements which resulted therefrom down to the second century when the Chris.tian Gospels first appeared. The second set of tables, at end of Study II., give the leading facts concerning the movements of Indian faiths and mythologies eastward into Trans-India, and show the building up there of important nations and religions by ancient Indian colonizers, kings and leaders. A third body of chronology follows Study III. - Zoroastrianism - where is traced its rise, growth, rule and far-reaching influence, from

Central Europe to Baktria, Babylonia and eastward even to the vales of Kāshmir ; its natural decay and death, hastened as this was by the strong monotheism, and forcible methods of the great Arabian and his successors. The three sets of tables notice also in due sequence all important monumental records, sacred stones or stêlæ, shrines, inscriptions, early and popular names of deities, their attributes, habitats, rise and fall, and such like matter, which though many assertions and conclusions rest upon them, cannot be always shown in a too brief text.

Study II. places before the world, so far as we know for the first time, a consecutive and methodical history of the quasi aboriginal and leading races of the Indian Archipelago, more especially of Java, Siam, Kambodia, and those other old nations now acknowledging French sovereignty, but of whose ancient history she knows little and Europe still less, especially as to their ancient religions. Much is here established from monuments as well as muniments, and by tracing back names, rites and symbolisms to the prehistorik times of Kolarian India.

Chronologies of course entail some little study, but he who has no leisure or wish to be a student can skip these, or only dive into them when puzzled by the text; in which case we trust he will not assume to criticize, for very much depends on detailed chronologies-well called "the eyes of history." Without such a guide we must go astray or at best walk with faltering steps, whilst with its light the most cursory reader can pursue his way, and also see how far the author wanders into the regions of hypotheses. Not that this is censurable even on the part of a historian, for such excursions, where proofs may not yet be possible, are of the very essence of scientifik treatment. As Humboldt somewhere says: "Surmize, hypothesis, sagacity and divination are the parents of science," though props to be used sparingly and with judgment.

The selection of these Short Strodies has enabled us to virtually embrace and epitomize all the faiths and religious ideas
of the world, as well as to lay bare the deep-seated tap root from which they sprang, viz., the crude Yati-ism, Jati or asceticism of thoughtful Jatis or Jinas, who in man's earliest ages have in all lands separated themselves from the world and dwelt from pious motires in lone forests and mountain caves. The Jati was essentially a "matted haired hermit"-latterly known as one re-born or re-incarnated; and Jātikoss, usually styled "fables," are " the traditions of the fathers" in present-day parlance.

From these anchorite practices and teachings seem to have developed the ascetical Bodhism of Jainas, the ancient Brāhmanism and Buddhism of Götama and pre-Gotama times, the earlier Magianism of Kaspiana, the Shāmanism of Mongolia, and the Tāoism of China. The process of course would be very gradual, and depend upon the circumstances, talent, wisdom and unwisdom, piety, self-interest, and idiosyncrasies of the leaders -quasi founders-the prophets, rīshīs, saints, Bodhas or " wise ones," like Zoroaster, Moses, Mahā-Vira, Gotama, Lāotsze, Confucius and a host of less known teachers.

We do not here attempt to face the impossible genesis or beginning of all religion, but only to step a little back and find a base from which such grand old structures as the Gäthas of the Vedas and the Āvastās arose; the philosophical teachings of the schools of Kapila-Vastu, of Jainas, of Brāhmans and Brāhmanas -the origin or history of the saintly phalanx of twenty-four Tirthankars or Jaina Bodhists corresponding to the ten Avatāras of Hindus. The ninth of these, Gotama-Buddha, was we now know for certain born in the Lumbini garden of N. E. Oudh during the preaching of the great 24th Jaina Bodha, Mahāvira of Vaisāli. (598-526 в.c.)

To avoid confusion, we in this volume term all pre-Götama, Jaina saints or Tirthankars, Bod $\dot{h} \alpha$, and reserve the name Buddhas for the followers of Gotama (the only true Buddhas); just as Christian-like saints before Christ might be called Chrestians but not Christians. It has led to much confu-
sion calling Kāsyapa, who preceded Götama, a Büddhà. He was an arch-heretik to Buddhism, as is seen when "Déva-datta, the Lord's cousin," forsook Gôtama to join the Kāsyapas or Jina Bodhists, whose headquarters was then (about 517 b.c.) at Srāvasti, where was the tomb of Kāsyapa, around which, and down to our middle ages, there ever thronged the Digambara or naked sect of Jainas as related in pp. 8, 9, 62.

The twenty-four Avatāras or saintly Jainas may reasonably be taken as appearing at intervals of one or more centuries. The 24th, Mahā-Vira-now an historical character-preceded the 23rd, Parsvā (also all but historical), by about 200 to 250 years, and Parsva has therefore been thought by some to be a title of Kāsyapa Bodha, who is bracketed with Gotama Buddha and "Konak 'Muni" on the Bharahut skulptures, of which more anon. Before him came Kraku-chanda, whom Ceylonese and trans-Indian Buddhists say appeared about the time of Abraham, but who they are far from considering as equally historical. If we have a tree of the one at Hebron, we have more substantial evidence of the other in Asôka's Lāt of 250 B.c. at Kapilavastu, his acknowledged birth-place. Gotama constantly spoke with reverence of these three preceding Bodhas, and the questions to be solved are not only their dates, but those of the first twenty; the first of which, Rishabha, is the best known among them. He is to Jains exactly what Abram is to Hebrews and Mahamadans, and there seems as much revered and inspired scripture in the one case as in the other.

General Cunningham shows Kasyapa as skulptured at Bharahut, in his Pl. xv. (Lon. 1879, p. 113-4), but conventionally calls this Jaina and his predecessor "Buddhas." Elephants, as symbols of the wise, are there seen worshiping on their knees before a banian, Kāsyapa's sacred tree, at the foot of which is an inscribed altar or bodhi manda; and other old and young elephants are bringing offerings \&c., to Kasyapa's symbols.

In Pl. xxiv. 4, the Archeologist shows also the worship of
"Kanak Muni," as he thus transliterated the Bharahut characters; but in Ceylon and trans-India the name is "Ko-nāgamani;" see Forbes and Spence Hardy in Man: Bud. p. 89. The Jina Bodha's tree appears as the Ficus glomerata, at the foot of which is also a casket-like altar where many are kneeling and kissing. Others are adorning its branches with garlands, said to be the trumpet-like flower Pātali, after which it was fancied the Māgadha capital was named, though we believe the Emperor Chandragupta called Pātali-pothra after his natal city Pātali the old capital of the Indus delta.

Just as this was going to press full confirmation was received of the very important discovery of the garden of Lumbini and consequently of the ruins of Kapila-Vastu at the extreme north-east of Oudh, to which we allude in Art. I., p. 9. When so writing about a year ago the discovery seemed only to be that of the tomb of the Bodha Konakamana or perhaps of Kakuchanda-long surmized to be in this locality. But in excavating the Lāt of Asôka, now known as that of Padeiria, it was at once established, as Prof. G. Bühler says in Athen, 5th March '97, that it stood in "the garden of Lummini" (Pāli, Lumbini), where Gotama was born ; and, if so, the vast stretch of ruins eight miles N.W. are those of the great Canterbury and Oxford of ancient India, from which we may now hope to extract much invaluable historical, religious and literary matter.

The Emperor here states on his Lāt (a great stone 25 ft . long) that he himself came to this " Garden of Lumbini, in the twentieth year of his anointing" (в.c. 239 ?) ; here worshiped, erected several stupas and also this Lāt "on the very spot where Lord Buddha was born in order to commemorate this great event." Ruins of stupas, monasteries and palaces buried in dense janjals, seem, say Indian correspondents, to abound in the neighbourhood. They stretch in a straight line for some five miles from the village of Amouli to Tilaura Kot on the

Ban-ganga river, and extend in all over some seven miles, so that all archeologists have here been misled, apparently by the itineraries of foreign pilgrims, as to the sites given in sketch map, fig. I., p. 11. Even natives have forgotten the site for above a thousand years.

The new site shows that the more we study the more it appears we have to look northwards for the cradle lands of Indian races, faiths and civilization, and this seriously disturbs the supposed Aryan origin of these. Amidst Himālayan forests, under the snowy heights of Nāpal was clearly no place in preBuddhistik times, for Aryan residence or culture, yet here was the first Indian home of all Sākyas, Mālas and other early nonAryan settlers, thus confirming much we have said and left unsaid, as for example at pages 10-12 of this volume.

It is evident that Northern India like Western Asia and Southern Europe received its first colonizers from Central Asia, as from a Baktrian centre, and from the sacred gathering ground-"the Hindu Holy Land"-in the vale and plains of the Mana Saravar lakes. From here issue as streamlets, the Indus, Satlej or Sarāyu, and that other Sarāyu of Kosala or Northern Oudh, which, with its affluent the Màla-indu ("river of Mālas"), here bursts through the Srāvasti gorge. From Mana Sarawar also springs the great Brāhmā-putra or child of India's Creating father -features clearly seen in the map of Ancient India.

The colonizers seem to have followed the tracks of these rivers till they debouched on the fertile plains of India, and they would naturally be termed Mālăs, Mădrăs, \&c., as coming from the Hima-älyas or "Snow Mountains," or as children (Mădrăs) of Rudra or Siva, wending their way down the Satlej under the shadow of his celestial dwelling place, holy Kāilāsa. It would take ages before their Bonzas, Shāmans or "Medicine Men" turned into pious Srämans, Bodhas, wise Buddhas, and the Rishis and philosophers of Kapila-Vastu. But a word here at the risk of anticipating our text, regarding the twenty-four Jaina Saints.

Of these there are considerable if not reliable details, and Gotama was satisfied, not only as to the particulars of the lives but of the teachings of the three who preceded him, as Parsvā of the 9 th century b.c. was of his predecessors. Gotama frequently calls himself "the fourth," and some said he was the fifth Buddha or teacher of the ascetikal practices of his early anchorite life which partook of the essence of Jinism and the refined Sanfāsism of Brāhmanism. It is clear also that the Gotama of early Tibetans, Mongols and Chinese, must have been a Jaina, for the latter say he lived in the tenth and eleventh centuries b.c. Tibetans say he was born in 916, became a Buddha in 881, preached from his thirty-fifth year and died in 831 B.c., dates which closely correspond with those of the saintly Parsva, But the Chinese date of the tenth and eleventh centuries points rather to Bodha Kãsyapa, whom they might hear of in Baktria or at the sources of the Indus in "the Indu Holy Land," and who is the probable source of Tāoism.

Some suggest that there were two Kāsyapas but this does not help us, and is most unlikely, seeing the name, circumstances and similarity of the early Buddhism to that even of Asōkan times, and seeing it evolved as we show this in "Short Texts," Study XI., from the Buddhism of Gotama's "second stage." Distance was nothing to these itinerant monks, and we therefore believe that the dweller in the Himālayan highlands of Srãvasti readily found his way to the Bodhistically inclined peoples of ancient Balk.

We may look upon the twenty to twenty-four Jaina saints as occupying that "heroik period," common in all histories, especially those of Egyptians, Babylonians, Greeks and Hebrews. There are seen ten to twelve Avatārs or semi-divine kings or patriarchs as Hebrews called them, and to whom, like Hindus and others, they ascribe unnaturally long lives and'strange legends. Hindus show that eight such appeared before Gotama, whose advent ushered in the rise of Indian literature, not necessarily

Aryan, though it has descended to us in an Aryan garb. Kapila-Vastu was an Oxford of learned Dravidian Pandits several centuries before Aryans settled in mid Gangetik states.

Before the days of Rishi Kapila, about 700-600 в.c., some history and much tradition shows that there existed very ancient Jaina scriptures called Purvas, i.e., Purānas or " old " sacred hymns (we can scarcely say writings) long prior to 800-900 B.C.-the times of Parsva. But the reader must bear in mind that it is only the poverty of language which here obliges us, lucus a non lucendo, to so speak. It is like accusing Moses of writing the Pentateuch thirteen centuries B.c., when so far as we can see no Hebrews knew any scripture, though some Amarna pandits could write in kuniform, all of which Mr Cust disposes of in R. As. J. of Jan. 1897, as we do, briefly at the close of article ix., p. 450. It cannot as yet be proved that any writings existed in India in pre-Gotama times, though Dr Bühler thinks Indian traders used the so-called Brähmi scrip., 800 B.c., and that by 500 b.c. it contained an alfabet of forty-six letters. Prof. Halevy cannot place this earlier than 330 B.c., so the reader must remember that when we speak of the earliest "scriptures," these, till about 600 b.c., were, so far as we may yet assert, oral, mere words borne in pious and well trained memories.

Hindus of Brähmanikal tendencies evidently adopted the .Jaina Parsvā as their fourth Avatār, Parasu-Rāma, just as ages later they naturally adopted Gotama as their ninth ; seeing that, in early life, he embraced all the best teachings and pious austerities of Jainas, and of some Brāhmans, impelled appar.ently thereto, by the atheistikal philosophies of Kapila-Vastu and the coarse animism current around him. He evidently chose as ensamples the three or four previous Bodhas, and no doubt the much revered Maha-Vira-his possible instructor and senior by forty-one years.

Not till 500 b.c., did he make his great stride forward,
removing religion into a higher and purer ethikal and altruistik atmosphere than any faith had yet accomplished. He then quitted the Yati's or Jina's cell, and to a great extent the ascetik's rôle, and taught that true religion is Work and Duty, no mere selfish desire for rest, peace, or enjoyment, nor a seeking after one's own salvation, here or hereafter, but a life devoted to the service of others. It took a century for this excellent religion to make much progress, for we find kings, nobles, and even the learned, holding more or less Jaina or Brahmanikal views, down to the beginning of the 3rd century B.c., when Asoka, the rising young viceroy of Malwa (the "Māla kingdom" of Jains, capital $U_{j}$-Jaini), began to realise the inutility to man, or at all events to the statesman, of Jaina Bodhism, in comparison to true Buddhism. Yet only about the middle of the 3rd century, when firmly seated as Emperor of Magadha (virtually of all Northern Hindostan) did he announce himself a Buddhist.

It is necessary to remember and in chronological order, the leading mental developments of the Emperor Asoka as gathered from his actual inscriptions-edicts on rocks and lāts. We give therefore below free translations of passages of five of these from Thomas' Early Asôka, 41-45; Senart's Inscrips. II. and Jour. Asiatique, May 1887, observing the chronology S.B.E.X. Intro. by Prof. Max Müller. The great turning-point in the emperor's career was his "Conversion by Nigrôdha"-no doubt from a complacent Hinduism, to the all-prevailing ethikal Jainism then fast tending to Buddhism.


| Yrar. |  | Lbading Matters of some Edicts. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| reqnal. | в.c. |  |
| 6 | 253 | Begins to build and endow monasteries, stupas and sundry charities, and urges reverence to Brāhmans and Srāmans. |
| 9 | 250 | Inscribes the important Edicr XII., stating his "conversion" -to Jainism? |
| 10 | 249 | Proclaims a religion of goodness, and appoints ministers of morals to watch over the morals of persons of all religions. |
| 12 | 247 | Inscribes an edict again urging tender mercy to all that lives; says he desires to make all happy and enable them to reach heaven or "Svarga." Urges the conversion of all in the Empire so that "following the paths of righteousness they may give glory to God " (according to one translator) -a doctrine which may be Jainism but not Buddhism. He therefore calls this teaching "sinful" in his twentyseventh year edict. |
| 18 | 241 | Probable date of BHābra stone and first mention of "Buddha Dharma and Church" - Faith and Assembly. Urges obedience to Vinaya and other scriptures, saying: "I have (here) uttered my desire," which was understood as an imperial command and looks like a statement that the religion of the Empire was henceforth to be Buddhism; and so argued with us all the local Pandits at Bairath (Bhābra) in Rājputāna. Being now a declared Buddhist, he in this eighteenth regnal year, drops the old Jaina title of "Dêva-nām-p $\bar{y} y \bar{a}$," "Beloved by the Gods" (Buddha knowing of no gods or spirits), and simply styles himself "Priyā-dasin," "The gracious or humane one." |
| 20 | 239 | Asôka goes to far N.E. Oudh and erects the Padirea lāt in the garden of Lumbini and makes a royal procession to Srāvasti. |
| 27 | 232 | This long pious inscription is dated "the 27th of my anointment," and opens with "a confession of past faults." He says of his edict of the twelfth regnal year: "having destroyed that; and regarding my former religion as sin, I proclaim the fact for the benefit of the world . . . for Dhama (religion) is the chief excellence and consists of good works, mercy, charity, purity, \&c., \&c. |

The theme of our First Study thus embraces of necessity many difficult, fundamental and most interesting points of ancient Indian history; especially the rise of races, and their original seats and colonies. India has indeed been the birthplace of great nations as well as religions, mythologies, and all manner of superstitions, many of which are here explained and verified; Those who have by residence and study been long acquainted with its different races, but have got wedded to the Aryan idea of Indian civilization, will, we think, find reason to recast their views, more especially if they have lived in friendly intercourse with the great Dravidian makers of her history, with Mădrăs, Tamils, Telingas, Bangās, Mālwas, Mārwars, Rāhtors, MāhRāthas, Konkānis, \&c. Our researches also point to the probable origin of many world-wide legends down to the days when Christian Europe canonized the sage of Bodha-Gayā, the worthiest and best among her saints.

Study II. embraces the earliest known colonizing developments of Eastern Trans-India, and the consequent spread thither of all the faiths and symbolisms of Trilingāna and Tamulian India, their Bud or Hermaik nature, and serpent cults, elemental and sexual, as well as the corrupt Māla Jainism, as of MahMālapur, and the Bāli and animism of the Ceylonese. Following these, and much mixed up therewith, came Buddhism, which, owing to the labors of Buddha-gosha, developed very purely among Burmans in our fifth century, and much later among the Shāms or Siāms. Lastly came Purānik Hinduism, which endured until forcibly effaced by Islām in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

A searching investigation as to all these movements has led to many important geografikal and ethnografikal facts concerning the colonizers, showing their tracks, customs and ideas as they settled variously from East Africa to the Indian Archipelago, in and about Australasia, and on through Polynesia even to Peru
and British Columbia, though the Māla or Mālay influence there is too large a subject to be dealt with in a Short Study.

Study III. is necessarily a brief sketch of a great faith, that of the Iranians, developed by another pious and learned Buddha -the first of Aryan teachers, known to Greeks as Zoroaster. It arose amid the volcanik wilds of S.E. Kaspiana, where fire was naturally worshiped by its Magi ("great ones"), magicians, sorcerers, or shāmans. It dominated Western Asia more or less completely from the Oxus to the Persian Gulf from about 1200 B.c. to 650 A.c., and therefore requires the most serious attention from all students of ancient and modern religions.

From Mazdā-ism sprang most of the kosmik and religious ideas of Western Asia and Europe, Syrian, Hebrew, and Christian ; and whosoever would rightly comprehend and appreciate western scriptures, rites, laws, and symbolisms, should here search for a basement. We can but lightly touch on what is mildly termed "the coincidences" and analogous legends, parables, deities, angels and fiends, heavens, hells and other dogmas concerning man's present and future, wide fields of thought, which the West largely gathered from the religion of Ahura Mazdāh.

The important subjects of the age of the original Gāthas and Avastā-Zand, raised by Mr Darmesteter in 1892-3, and eagerly discussed by European and Parsi scholars (see especially R. As. Jour. Bom. LII., 1896) are here carefully considered, and may be taken as finally disposed of as far as all known records go, but still we are only in a position to give approximate dates beyond Achaimenian times.

## Studies .IV., V. and VI.

These embrace Hinduism, chiefly as found in Vedas and Vedañtism, and the histories and teachings of Lāotsze and

Confucius. All well authenticated facts, theories, rites, and doctrines are carefully investigated, as well as the characters and influence of the founders, and the worship and scriptures which developed therefrom; and due comparisons are drawn to show how these stand in the light of other religions.

The radical meaning of the "Tāo" of Lāotsze is here set forth, it is believed, for the first time, and was in MS. a dozen years ago. Tāo is in fact analogous to $R a b b$, a common term for God and Lord in the Korān, where it is considered more divine than the Mralak or "Lord" of Arabs, Syrians, Hebrews and Indians. Tāo is often indeed Brāhmā but oftener Brāhm or Brūhma, the great Neuter and Absolute Power, fully described in Study IV., "Vedas and Vedānta." No doubt General Alexander is justified in translating Tāo by "God" in his little book on Laotsze published last year, though it is usually better to use the native terms, for that of "God" varies in meaning according to age and culture. Thus Tāo is often $T i$ and Tiamat, the $\overline{A p s u}$ or "Great Abyss," as "origin of all things," and "He or It who unravels." He is "The Way, The Greatness, and a Greatness ever moving on"; the Hidden One (a name of Āman and Siva), also "the Nameless," and according to Confucius "the Path or Way of Virtue." See correspondence in R.As. Js., January 1897. Prof. de Harlez says "Taō has the essential meaning of Greatness." So has Rabb and Rab-mag, דבמג in the Korān, and Jer. xxix. 3; and so has Mäg or Mägian, the Mägu-pati of Hindus, the Mägha of Sūmīrs and Akkads, and Mageus of the Āvastā Zand, which said Darmesteter also means "holiness and godliness" S. B. E., li. 4.

## Studies VII. and VIII.-Elohim and Jehovah

These sum up most of the ablest criticism regarding the rise and charactev of the two Hebrew conceptions of a tribal
and universal God in Āle-im (אלהים) or Elohim and Yahvê or Yahuê (יהוה)—vocalized latterly as Jehovah.

Our arguments as to the early arboreal cult, in the thinly disguized worship of the Ālēim as local spirits of trees, and broadly speaking of vegetation, will not surprise those who have studied Mannhardt, Grimm, C. Bötticher, Menant, R. Smith's Semites, Fraser's Golden Bough, De Gubernatis, \&c., We seem to have successfully started the fact among English writers, when, in 1882, we astonished many, by calling the tree, " man's first cult" and placed it at the head of The Chart of Rivers of Life, and made it the one theme of the first chapter in that work. The cult continually appears throughout the Old Testament, and must have approved itself to the compilers of Ezra's days. Indeed the very first preliminary towards composing or editing the Bible, was for Ezra to place himself under Ālē's eponymous Alun, Âlê or Oak, when the Elohim at once appeared to him "in a bush," as he had done to Moses. See 2 Ezdras, xix., and the strange details given in the next Study, Septuagint, 447-8.

Nothing is more prominent in the early religion of Hebrews than the worship of, or at all events under, the oaks and terebinths, the Āls or Āluns of Mamre, Moreh, Shechem, \&c.; and the strange occurences, rites and discoursings which took place beside these and other sacred trees, are much and fondly dwelt on. The palm of Deborah seems to have inspired her song, and a whispering of the mulberry trees proclaimed to David the voice of his God, as the oaks of Dodona did also that of Zeus to Greeks. Nor has the idea yet died down in Europe, as Folk Lore journals every day show. We know that the virgin Saint Jeanne d'Arc received the first incitement to her mission under a sacred tree, though she swore she did not believe in driads and fays, but only in Biblical Spirits.

The cult is still common in the Hebrew "Holy Land," Syria', Arabia and Africa. Witness it before the Mandura tree
at the Nile-ometer as described at p. 466, and trace its phases in the ancient and modern symbols of ashêrim, matsbes, pillars, stocks and altar-like stones, noticed in Deut. xi. 30; Judges ix. 37; 2 Sam. v. 24 ; Hosea iv. 12, and elsewhere, in addition to the remarks of modern scholars, as at page 179 of the Rev. Robertson Smith's Semites. Notice also how close Jacob's idea of the Ālēgod he selected (Gen. xxxviii. 20), is to that of our present Gilgit or Kash-mīrī peasant, as related in The Golden Bough, i. 70. When the vernal spirit of vegetation (the Aleim of Hebrews) has stirred nature, the Gilgiti sets out from his house to seek in his well known abode the Himālayan Oak, and bringing to bis wife a budding branch, exclaims, there is what will bestow children, flocks and plenty, "the food and raiment" for which Jacob bartered with Jehovah.

Study ix. The Septuagint.
This is a brief history of the Hebrew Scriptures, more especially as found in that oldest record, the Greek Septuagint, embracing the Thora, תורה, of Ezraitik scribes from about 420 to 380 в.c., with later additions. It details the vicissitudes the various scriptures underwent, especially the loss of the "Original Temple Standard" copy of the Hebrew Bible at the siege of Jerusalem in 71 a.c., and the burning of the original Septuagint in the Bruchium library in 47 в.c.

## Study x. Mahamad and Islām.

This is a brief history of "the great Arabian," his faithIslàm; his Bible "The Koran," and a description of Maka with its faiths, ancient and modern.

Study xi. Short Texts from all Faiths.
We give here a brief epitome of the views expressed in different bibles and creeds, faiths and philosophies, chronologically arranged, so as to show the gradual growth of ideas and

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## ERRATA ET ADDENDA.



|  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 302. 22 top. For 550 read 552. |  |  |
| 334. | 13 foot. | For identified read. interchanges. |
| 335. | 5 | For Moabites read Midianites. |
| 336. |  | , good ", god. |
| 337. | 11 " | ", and insert truly : remove italics and "" |
| 337. | 6 " | ", Arsbian ", Southern. |
| 8. | 8 " | ", Mazbé ", Mazbah. |
| 343. |  | comes " may come. |
| 350. | 6 top. | After read insert said Jews. |
| 356. | 17 foot. |  |
| 360. | Bamuth time | is here and elsewhere some$s$ read as Bahamuth. |
| 2. | 20 foot. | After the insert or my. |
| 365. | 12 top. | ,, Biblical insert Grove or Asharoth. |
| 368. | 16 | After altars insert or Mazbahim. |
| 371. |  | Omit male. |
| 371. | 16 | For Hagiar kui read Hajiar kem. |
| 374. | 8 foot. | Omit Druids or. |
| 386. | 4 , | Afler end of sentence add: Yahuê accurs monumentally about 900 в.c. |
| 391. | 15 top. | Recast sentence. "Among Sabeans a deity Yughuth was worshiped down to," de. |
| 394. 20 foot. For Yubu-im read Yabus-im. |  |  |
| 394. | 10 , | Elehiun read Eliun. |
| 395. |  | Omit the Akkadian. |
| 397. |  | For Mazb-s read Mazbahs. |
| 416. 20 " "Smerch's read Smerdis. |  |  |
| 419. Add to footnote Some early parts may be 168 and the later only 46 8.c. |  |  |
| 420. | 16 | Omit widely. |
| 421. 15 |  | For sanctuaries read synagogues. |
| 422. | 4 | For the read a. |
| 431. | 1 | For BC read AC. |
| 504. | 2 | For 'abHas read 'abbas. |
| 519. 10. Add as footnote (*) translated from a Greek iambic. |  |  |
| 523. Insert after the Shafar, "Hanbal-is,the fourth sect, founded by Hanbalof Bāghdäd, 780-855. He published amass of tradition, chiefly the Miusnad. |  |  |
| 526. 4 foot. For M'arijat read M'a |  |  |
| 529. | 11 top. | For these last only read in regard to. |
| 529. 14 foot. Omit words in brackets. |  |  |
| 537. 8 top. For U read l. |  |  |
| 539. | 12 foot. | After Mustajab insert metaphorically. |
| 547. | 2 | After Arafat insert sexual union. |
| 551. |  | For Mizäh read Mizāb. |
| 552. | 2 top. | " parted " stonc. |
| 552. |  | ", Marmar , Marwa. |

PRINTRD 女y
 गीक दरसी

