

KATHERINE MAYO

AUTHOR OF
MOTHER INDIA

SLAVES OF THE GODS



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WE have a splendid spiritual heritage; but it has grown stale and profitless through the lack of the one thing which alone can keep any tradition fresh and profitable; and that is the spirit of real affection and consideration for others. The most potent survivals from our immemorial past are now – what? Crystallized cruelties and selfishness, infant marriage, the heartless restrictions which we place on widows, our treatment of women generally, the whole system of untouchability, what are these but matters in which the dead weight of custom has crushed out of us the ordinary decent feelings which should sweeten and harmonize the life of human beings? And what is caste itself but a system of organized selfishness. . . . These and many similar things are our heritage to-day; and it is under the weight of this heritage that we are groaning. – KRISHNAMURTI. Reprinted in *New India* [Editors, Annie Besant and B. Shiva Rao], Madras, March 22, 1928.