



LIFE'S SHADOWS

BY

KUMARA GURU



D. B. TARAPOREVALA SONS & CO.

LIFE'S SHADOWS

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KUMARA GURU

FOREWORD BY

SIR S. RADHAKRISHNAN,
*Spalding Professor of Eastern Religion,
Oxford*

BOMBAY :

D. B. TARAPOREVALA SONS & CO.

TREASURE HOUSE OF BOOKS
HORNBY ROAD, FORT

First published, 1938

PUBLISHED BY JAL HIRJI TARAPOREVALA, B.A., FOR
MESSRS. D. B. TARAPOREVALA SONS AND CO. AND PRINTED BY
G. SRINIVASACHARI, B.A., AT G. S. PRESS MADRAS.

FOREWORD

The writer of this book has asked me to write a brief foreword, which I do with pleasure. These stories of India in transition are a mild protest against the westernization of the soul of India, that is now in process. The author is not unaware of the defects of Hinduism. There are plenty of dead things in it. Their putrefaction spreads pestilence that can poison the well-springs of life. Dead words come out of our lifeless mouths. Loss of faith and spread of vulgarity are consequences of the stiffening within Hinduism. Yet a culture that has gone on without a break for nearly four or five millenniums has something vital about it. Its capacity for assimilation without losing its identity is immense. It is this process that is now at work in the minds of men and women, causing unrest and bewilderment, such as we see in the characters described in this book.

Civilization has been defined in various ways. The writer of these stories will perhaps define it as the influence of good women, who, though illiterate, still sense the soul and

reveal the real. The fulfilments and aberrations of the different characters are largely traceable to the influence of the women on them. We will certainly support the author's desire that our women may retain their spiritual aspiration and aesthetic appeal even when they acquire fuller intellectual freedom and social life.

Oxford,
5th March 1938.

S. RADHAKRISHNAN

P R E F A C E

My aim in these pages has been to present, from a psychical standpoint and in various aspects, a realistic picture of the educated Tamil Brahmin of the last generation. The shadows thrown on the life of an idealist in the human relationship of brother, wife, son and friend have perhaps a tragic universality, and the sketches are but an occasion for reflection and suggestion on a philosophy of life. Hence my venture to issue these sketches in a permanent form under the title "Life's Shadows." I trust the reader will find in this, at least, a human document.

My thanks are due to the authorities of the *Calcutta Review* for permission to reprint the first three sketches, which appeared in that journal under the pseudonym "Kumara Guru".

Bombay,
March 1938

C. S.

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