

**THE RELIGION
OF
ZARATHUSHTRA**

I. J. S. TARAPOREWALA

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BY

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TO
THE TWIN AUTHOR~~S~~
OF
MY BEING
PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL

FOREWORD

JUST because I have been ~~born~~ and brought up in the Religion of Zoroaster, I feel there is hardly any need of an apology for writing this little book for the information of non-Zoroastrians. But I need only say a few words as to its scope. Necessarily, the size of the book has forced me to confine myself strictly to the most essential elements of my Faith. These form the essential features of all great Religions of the world, the only difference being introduced by the personality of the Teacher and by the character of the people He came to teach. So I have strictly confined myself to the vital doctrines of the Faith without any reference to the numerous ceremonies and customs that have grown up round it in the course of centuries of development.

The quotations from the ancient texts have been translated by myself from the

original, except where expressly stated as another's work. In some of these the student of Avesta will find considerable divergences from the translations of various authorities, but I have never consciously strained the grammar of any passage to suit my own purposes.

I have tried to see in my Religion a consistent solution of the "Riddle of Life" and I have formed in my own mind a sort of general idea of the scope and method of the Message of Zarathushtra. Deeper study would lead (and indeed, has led) me to alter my views considerably, but so far I have never felt constrained to alter any of the fundamental notions about the religion of my fathers.

I have one ineradicable belief, *viz.*, that all Founders of Great Religions speak with a fullness of Divine Wisdom, of which we ordinary mortals have but the very faintest conception. To understand the Words of such Mighty Beings we have to follow Their Teachings with a humble and meek spirit. I hope I strive to do this in my life, and what light has been vouchsafed to me from the "Higher

planes" I have tried to put down here. I regard the Master's Message as the noblest thing that we possess in our Faith, and I have tried to understand it by the noblest of which my soul is capable. Later ignorance and human limitations have clouded most of the sublime Teachings; and I believe the one sure way to understand them once again is by appeal to one's Higher Self. To each will then come what he is most in need of. None can claim the final word in these matters, not until he is "as perfect as his Father Who is in Heaven is perfect".

So, if the reader finds the pages that follow uninspiring let the blame attach not to the Divine World-Redeemer, Zarathushtra, but to the weak and very human devotee of His, who tries with all his limitations to measure the Infinity of His Wisdom.

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