

A STUDY OF REALITY.

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OF
REALITY**

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PREFACE.

Metaphysics is not popular. There are no doubt many popular treatises on metaphysical subjects. But unfortunately they do not set out the Indian way of thinking. They are written from the stand-point of western thought and by western writers. They are excellent in their way and treat many problems with subtlety. But they do not satisfy the metaphysical instinct of the Indian. This booklet has been written especially with the object of meeting that demand.

Metaphysics is said to be the science of sciences. Those who go through this booklet will have no doubt that it has a very definite meaning for us. It is the science of the soul or the self. This is an ancient science, evolved when the minds of men were not distracted by the progress of other sciences, and they were more alive to the deeper meaning of life and to the inner significance of things generally. I do not presume to have made any study worth the name of the ancient sanskrit literature bearing upon this subject. My only qualification for writing upon it is that I have an interest in the subject which is rather unusual in these

days, and because I believe that my presentation of it might appeal to a larger section of people educated in the present-day public schools and universities than any coming either from the orthodox pandits and sastries or from orientalists. I am a student of metaphysics pure and simple, and the only appeal I know is the appeal of reason. I submit the following few pages with the object of indicating that appeal, and not to explain an ancient system. I have also taken care to make as little use of the technicalities of current metaphysics as possible, so that the average reader may not find himself lost in the useless intricacies of mere phrases, and may get directly at the meaning.

The only debt I have to acknowledge is the debt to my teacher, Seth Motilal Maneckchand, who first initiated me to this way of thinking, and who has always found time, through his arduous duties, to keep me in touch with this thought. The original draft was in greater part first communicated to him, and many valuable suggestions from him have been incorporated.

G. R. M.

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