

withal, all-loving ; and if his doctrine of God is high, so also is his doctrine of man and of the relation between God and man. Love is supreme, the ultimate essence and end of all, the true nature of God and man. Browning might inscribe as motto over his religious teaching, "God is Love." There is no pantheism, however, in Browning's teaching. "Man is not God, but hath God's end to serve—a master to obey—a course to take—somewhat to cast off—somewhat to become."

God is the Ideal and man is ever moving forward towards it—man's life begins from God and returns to God.

No writer has so magnified the sacredness of duty, the necessity and significance of effort, of endeavour. One of Christ's most scathing judgments was passed on the "unprofitable" who had buried his talent unused. And the unused talent, or, as he puts it, "the ungirt loin and the unlit lamp," are amongst life's most heinous sins. Not the number of talents, but the faithful use of talents, many or few is what makes life true and high and acceptable to God. Man is made for progress. Man is made to work, not to mourn, as Burns puts it. To see and feel is to suffer. His is the truest existence who enslaves his sufferings and makes their strength his own. He who yokes them to his chariot shall win the race. He admonishes youth to sigh even for the impossible, and if need be, blunder in the endeavour to improve what is. He intimates frequently that every man's task is to leaven earth with heaven, by working towards the end to which His master points, without dreaming that he can ever attain it. None great or small in the sight of God, there should be nothing great or small in the sight of man. "All service ranks the same with God—whose puppets, best and worst, are we—there is no last nor first." How beautifully Browning brings out this thought in "The Boy and the Angel," showing how God missed the service of the poor boy who worked at his daily craft and praised God as he did so. Creation's chorus was weakened by the silence of that one weak voice.