

THE WORLD PROBLEM

hunger for the spiritual, the imitators of the spiritual, cannot understand the real burden of the book.

The first step in the acquiring of spiritual power, to understand it, is downright honesty and freedom in research; the determination to know the truth and to accept and tell out the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. The truth in an advancing age—and in all ages God is making all things move—can never be in bondage to the authority of a past age, and live. The truth must be a light shining on free-men of to-day. In a world that is ever-evolving, with the human mind, limited but ever-enlarging, truth can never reach its limit of intellectual expansiveness, its final human interpretation. The interpretation of truth must ever keep up with “every word of God,” wherever discovered and revealed by any truth-seeker whatsoever. Refusal is an insult to the source of light, answered by the blight of ignorance and decay. The world is full of knowledge, of truth, hidden from the multitudes because there is no interpreter, no prophet of God’s meaning. To-day, as ever, “My people perish for lack of knowledge.”

III.

There are two great beginnings in the Bible. The one starts with the “instinctive monotheism” which probably once was universal. When the primitive faith known to history became a religion, it first descended into infinite variations of polytheism and idolatry, in every grade of deterioration down to the most insane worship of vermin, and the most unspeakable immorality. The prophets of Israel rescued the early monotheism and sought to restore the earliest simplicity of a personal spiritual union and communion between