

CALVARY

is the one that has promised me some security from this raging torment of Doubt."

"You think to escape that torment?" questioned the calm voice of Dharma Lal. "You say your Church will secure you. Believe me, my young *padre*, when I say this. Priests cannot help you; God Himself cannot help you. From Him you came; to Him you must return. Fit yourself for that return."

"But how? How?"

"You ask me that? You who three days ago insulted me to my face! Who in your heart of hearts despise my colour and my blood! Listen, then, young product of Western arrogance! What race, think you, did God first create? Those of my colour, or of yours? What religion first manifested itself to man through man's awakened soul? Mine or yours? What records of a world bind *this* world to consciousness or to meaning? Yours of the West, or mine of the East? Who has solved the deepest problems of life and attuned them to the Infinite, or produced the wisest thinkers, or taught the first principles of cosmic evolution? Of that great *All* that is of us as we of It; from whence we come—to whence we return? Have your priests a wiser or more helpful truth to teach than the Law of Karma; the law that makes man's deeds at once his judge and his accuser and his hell? For, believe me or not, yet this is truth I speak to you. No vicarious sacrifice shall wipe man's sins from man's soul. His deeds are as pebbles thrown into the waters of life, sending forth their consequences in ever-widening circles to all eternity."

"If these things were accepted truths," said Godfrey, "they would have appeared in our religion, in our Bible——"

"Your Bible!" interposed the Oriental. "What is your Bible? A record of histories and events; good and evil lives; sins and lusts of men; horrors of war, cruelty, bigotry, persecution. It holds not a tithe of the wisdom of our Veda. Neither is it so authentic. Your priests in the past have mauled it, and condensed it, and omitted whole books at their own discretion. Your Romish Church would not even allow it to be read by the laity