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“THE IDEA OF GOD IN THE WORLD’S RELIGIONS.”

THE idea of God is co-extensive with human life. The origin of the idea it is not the purpose of this paper to discuss. Nor will it concern itself with extinct religions and the religions of savage. Rather will it take a survey of the present great non-Christian religions of the world, and note the conception of Deity contained in each.

The God of a religion determines a religion. Religions is an old subject of discussion. Six centuries before Christ there were writers on this theme. The science of religion antedates the history of philosophy.

India and Pantheism are conjoined in thought. We view India as the world-centre if not the world-source of Pantheism. Yet India was far on in her history before she reached this form of belief. Four centuries before Christ, the Upanishads mark the beginnings of her Pantheism; while eight centuries before that, the Vedas describe the existence and unfoldings of her ideas of God. The question of the religion of the primeval Aryans has been long to the front, but it is far from settled. Yet it has come to be generally believed that with the early Indians objects of nature were revered as supernatural powers. These in time were raised to divinities and worshipped as such. Simple appears that worship to have been—prayer, praise and offering. No temple, no public assembly, no idol. In a room