

Paradise. The same World robbed you of your Heaven. It only deceived you in your Paradise. Perhaps so, but why did it deceive you in your Paradise? How is it that you, you my child, the man with a birthright of eternity, the God with a fetter of mortality, the beast with a ban of divinity, weep in the desert places till the caves and caverns are darkened and there is no sound upon the land? You know not. Ah! truly you know not. Does your benevolent philosopher know? Does HE of the cassock and the chalice know? Does HE of the Worlds and the Wilderness know? Surely Ignorance not Knowledge is the fulfilment of life.

Not all the truth of the World is contained in the scriptures. Beautiful men were they who recorded the Christ. Beautiful words are they which tell of the Christ but their beauty is of God. The Apostles lived in the Known. They wrote of the Unknown. Who is there to tell us what to expect after death? The Prophets can tell you what to expect after death. The Church can tell you what to expect in death; but there is none to tell us what to expect before death. Let the winds and the waves engulf you: let the fires and the fevers consume you, you of the Flesh, of that flesh which is grass, for I am not your keeper, neither have I a habitation among men. Weep and wail: torture and suppress till the world that gave you birth also giveth you rest for I am HE in whose mouth the mourning of the wicked is like honey and whose tears are like milk. Do you find these things in the Scriptures? No, absolutely and unconditionally. No. 'Peace and good-will upon earth' is a scriptural injunction. 'Love thy neighbor as thyself' is another scriptural injunction. But there's the rub. You of your own divine nature know what it is to do right. You of your own human nature know equally well what it is to do wrong. 'Peace and good-will upon earth' is impossible. 'Love thy neighbor as thyself' is doubly impossible. Perhaps you, my little *gamin*, cast the tares upon the river. Perhaps you, my little *gamin*, debauched the lily. Taint and Tares are undeniably present. Cant as much as you will of justice and reason. Cant as much as you will of love and good fellow-ship, but I will still despair of my answer. Perhaps your belief is self-righteous?—then I will draw aside this curtain and show you the strangled babe of the Buddha, the slaughtered of the Mohammed, the tortured of the Christ. Is that 'Peace and good-will upon earth!' You think not. Ah! stir not the troubled waters but grant him—the miserable misanthrope—this desideratum that he is not a vain babbler before men but