

worse than, the state of things we were trying to get rid of in the case of the utilitarians and the would-be scientific people. What we are thinking of is simply and solely the consideration that the moral man, being, by his very procedure, something of a metaphysical animal (that is, a being who in his actions goes beyond mere physical or scientific considerations), undoubtedly stands in need of a philosophy to the effect that the world, as a whole, is not intelligible from a merely material or physical point of view.

In this sense, the famous words of Schopenhauer, to the effect that the first creed of every just and good man is, "I believe in a metaphysic," are but the most literal truth conceivable. It is, let us admit it, to the lasting disgrace of our western thought that it has not yet, as a whole, risen to the height of an intuition—I will not say a thought—that India had ages before our European idealists. The intuition I refer to is the feeling that the so-called outer world of atoms and forces and matter is simply unthinkable without the inner world of the perception and the thought that attributes to it all its supposed qualities and forces and dispositions and laws. And one of the worst sins of this same western materialism of ours is that so many of our thinkers are vainly endeavouring to satisfy their souls with the husks and viewpoints of Darwinism when interpreted into the ridiculous position that the actual and the visible are the ethical and the ideal. It is not from the actual world at all that we take the thought of the ideal; "is" and "what happens" are not the same as "ought" and "what ought to happen." It is, on the contrary, from the ideal and the purposeful in ourselves that we credit nature, or the actual, with a power of selection, and with the phenomena of evolution, and ascent, and descent, and what not. We are ourselves, in other words, eminently at least a part of the world; or rather, we have certainly never known any world which we have not tried to spell out in terms of our own nature. And as for primeval, cosmic dust and milky ways and radio-active particles, and so on,