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CHAPTER IX

G r e e c e

Greece the land of beauty, romance, art and philosophy, the cradle of human knowledge and real intelligence, the land from which sprang all that is noble and beautiful, which enlightened all peoples, was populated by a branch of the Aryan race but we have no idea when the first settlers of the country arrived; it is a severe loss to history that we have no very early record of the people and country prior to Homer's Illiad, and that is supposed to be part romance, part history, and a ~~very~~^{very} large part mystical, and at that there is no poem more beautiful than the story in the Illiad of the Siege and Destruction of Troy.

The written history of Greece is of recent date, comparatively speaking, that is recent to the history of other ancient countries, but every particle of it is of major interest, it is the most beautiful and instructive history of all times, and every paragraph bristles and sparkles with astounding facts, and the somewhat queer quirk of the Grecian political mind; Greece had the most beautiful religion the world has known; it was entirely a natural religion, and based ~~entirely~~ on the natural elements; while they gave names to their gods and goddesses, yet what they really worshipped was nature itself; the names of the gods being given to the sun, moon, stars, wind and so on. It was a part of nature they worshipped, but gave every element the name of a god.

A good many of us today have a false and confused idea of this, as so many think the Greeks worshipped these gods as individuals, but this is not the case; they really worshipped the element and gave it a name as a matter of convenience, and also to make it more romantic and beautiful.

The Greeks like all other people made their own gods, and made them exactly to their own image; all of the Greek gods are a direct reflection of the Greek men in action, and in character, the same condition prevailed, as in all other countries; they create their own gods, and can only create something which they themselves can feel and know, with all of their intelligence, they could only make their head God Zeus a sublime Greek; so it runs through the whole category of Greek gods; all are beautiful, some sublime, but one can also detect in them, the same blemishes as in the characters of the Greeks themselves; but with all of that, the Greek Mythology, is perfectly beautiful, full of romance, and even now is one of the finest studies in literature. Even modern men never cease studying the

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classical Greek stories of their gods.

Zeus ruled the whole family of gods, having his headquarters on Mount Olympus, as the home of the gods. Zeus the head god of Greece, was similar to the leading gods of other nations, as Jupiter of the Romans, Osiris of the Egyptians, Thor of the Norseman, and so on, having associated with him gods of every kind and description. Gods of the elements, trees, rivers, ponds, streams, flowers and even of the seas. There were also numerous household gods, and stranger still, there were half gods and half men, for the gods frequently descended from Mount Olympus to the earth, where they some times met a daughter of the earth, took her in marriage, and the resulting children were half human and half divine - in fact one of the best known of the heroes of Greek Mythology, Hercules, was born of a god, and a mortal woman; this merely shows that the imagination of the Greeks was of the very highest order, for we must always remember that the Greeks did not worship their gods as divine, as we do, but they seem to think of them, as part of their country and of themselves, and were not to be greatly feared as most gods are.

As a matter of fact, the Greeks seem to have regarded their gods more as friends, protecting them to a certain extent, but not as a rule, interfering in the ordinary affairs of men; however, one goddess was looked upon as a protectress, and looked out for the well-being of a certain city. This was the Goddess Athene, the protectress of Athens. This deity was supposed to look after the interests of Athens, her favorite city, and if any god or goddess was to a certain extent worshipped, it was the Goddess Athene worshipped by the Athenians; some of the finest works of art in Athens, were the representatives of this goddess in marble, stone and other artistic means of depicting her goodness and beauty.

Other states and cities also had their favorite gods, and others were located in different places, and in some temples; at a place called Delphi, there was a divine oracle, who was supposed to give good counsel and advice to all of those who wish to consult her at a price, but later on this was discovered to be a piece of trickery, the custodians of the temple themselves being the divine voice, and the advice given was usually so ambiguous, that it could be interpreted to mean almost anything. As this Oracle of Delphi was not one of the well-known gods of Greece, it did not in any way influence the Greeks against their deities, so the ancient Greeks at no time lost their friendly and kindly feeling towards their gods.

There was no hereafter, and no eternal hell ^{Punishment} ~~in~~ in Greek My-

thology, the Greeks were far too sensible and wise to believe in such a far-fetched outlandish piece of nonsense, the Greeks were too level-headed to imagine a kind, just loving god, sending his own creatures after death to fiery, burning hell to suffer the punishment of the damned throughout all eternity, any priest or layman trying to teach such nonsense to the average Greek, would have been laughed out of countenance.

There is one main reason why the Greeks were the most enlightened, free, intelligent, clear thinking men in this world, and that reason is, that they had no state religion, at no time did the Greek state adopt a religion as the official religion, it was always a matter of personal choice of the citizen himself, he could believe and worship if he so chose, or he could reject the whole thing; at no time was he forced by the state to believe or practice any creed, set of rules, or any dogmas of any kind; he was compelled to obey the laws of the state, but not of God; the result was, the mind of the Greeks was perfectly clear, he did not have a terrible fear, or a great deal of false nonsense pounded into his delicate mind when the mind was young, and tender to violent impressions, instead of the young children being crammed with visions of an angry God, or a burning hell and frightful punishment, if they angered this awful God, they were instructed in the beauties of nature, their duty to their parents, and the state, and they were well grounded, well instructed, and their whole instruction was planned along the lines of making them good useful citizens.

The Greeks were far too sensible to permit a priesthood to obtain a strong foot-hold in their affairs; no prying into their private affairs, or their private lives, and above all interfering in political and state matters; so Greece was not cursed with that great curse of other nations, a meddling priesthood, greedy for gain, greedy for power, and forever interfering in a man's liberty of life and thought; this plainly shows that the few countries that gave us our ideas of liberty in our lives, and also in our government, were countries that never permitted an official priesthood, and that never permitted the tender minds of children to be permeated with horrible thoughts of terrible, silly, unnecessary punishments.

For these reasons we find the Greeks a race of men who were able to think and reason clearly; to examine carefully all the meaning of nature and man himself, and instead of being fearful of all natural and so-called unnatural things, the Greeks clearly saw nature and man as they really are. They were not filled with superstition and dread, and were not told repeatedly

all through life that every natural desire they had was sinful; in fact 66
the Greeks did not have any idea of what sin was, they knew the difference
between right and wrong, but we cannot believe they ever had any idea that
what they did offended God, so grievously that he would punish them with
horrible severity; having no fear of an angry God, and also no fear of
scheming devils, the Greeks were able to devote their talents to useful
knowledge for the benefit of man himself; hence we see then as brave and
handsome people, devoting their time to educating the mind, and also taking
the best of care of their bodies; the physical training of children was care-
fully watched, and their bodies were taken care of the same as their minds;
the results show in all Greek history, no finer men physically ever lived,
and even today, Greek beauty is considered the model of comparison ^{for} of all
people.

We can now clearly see the reason why the Greeks were able to
instruct the whole world in the sciences so necessary to mankind; they
showed us the paths, even to what we know now, and the basis of most of our
lines of study in science, were laid down by the Greek philosophers; twenty-five
hundred years ago Pythagoras and Thalles taught the Copernican theory, that
the sun was the center of our solar system, and that the plants ^A revolved
around the sun, when we consider that these two men had no telescopes or
spectroscopes, no instruments to aid the naked eye, it is marvellous that
by brain power alone, they could fathom these great truths of nature; Pytha-
goras was the first of the world's great philosophers, and although none of
his written instructions have been handed down to us, his teaching survives,
and today we reap the benefit of his wisdom, and the deep, profound thinking
of this wise, ancient man.

Astronomy as we know it today, was taught by these men, and as they
had no instruments, they could not discover the secrets of our universe, but
they certainly did know as much as we do about our own solar system, as the
unaided human eye could detect; astronomy was not the only study taught in
Greece. Archimedes taught Hydraulics and discovered and explained the fulcrum,
Euclid gave to the world the rules of Geometry, and these same rules are taught
in our schools today. Aristotle laid down the lines of study for natural phi-
losophy, and for close observation of nature in the raw. Plato taught the world
the best ways of conducting a government, and some of the best features of
modern governments are the result of his splendid teaching; all of these
teachers were of great benefit to mankind, and even today in our modern life
we are indebted to them for useful knowledge, we require in our daily lives.

While these men were instructing the minds, we must remember the state was just as careful to instruct the people in proper living, in taking care of their bodies, and ~~bringing~~ ^{bringing} them to a very high degree of physical perfection; in art as well the Greeks were the foremost nation of all. Even to this day the works of art that have come down to us, cannot be approached or surpassed; in architecture and also in the art of sculpture, the Greeks excelled all others, and to this day, the Parthenon at Athens is the most artistic and beautiful building erected by the hand and brain of man.

In letters also, the Greeks pointed the way- they were the very first to classify writing, perfecting poetry, ~~tragedy~~ ^{tragedy} and comedy, in fact all of their literature bristles with gems of beauty in thought, and expression, and in ^{all} branches of writing they were pioneers who showed the way to all future writers on all subjects.

One of the great defects of Greece, and the main reason for its political down-fall, was the natives peculiar ideas of government, the country was not in any respect national, each particular tribe of the country had its own form of government, its own set of laws, and each one of them was jealous of the other, and none had a clear idea of the best political means for the benefit of the whole state.

Athens gave us the first and best example of a pure democracy, the very best government devised for mankind; all free citizens had an equal voice in the conduct of the political affairs of the state, and all questions were settled by a majority of the votes; the draw-back to good government in Athens, was that ^{they} ~~they~~ believed in slavery- in fact there were more ^{slaves} ~~slaves~~ than freeman in Athens, and we now know that no state can exist half free and half slave.; Sparta on the other hand was an hereditary kingdom, and its ideas of law and government was as dissimilar to those of Athens, as it is possible for any ^{two} ~~two~~ countries to be; Macedonia was likewise an hereditary kingdom, and was laid out ~~about~~ along the same lines as Sparta, while on the contrary, Thebes was a free state similar to Athens; we can readily perceive that these different forms of political government in a very small country, precluded any national feeling; each small state was interested in its own political ideas and forms, and so none of them had any patriotic pride in the advancement of Greece, as a whole united country; a ~~saying~~ ^{saying} has come down to us " When Greek joined Greek, then was the tug of war." And there never was any quotation more truthful, and full of meaning than that. For united the Greek states would have been irresistible.

No other country could have conquered a united Greece, but instead of uniting to resist the common foe, they were usually at war with each other, spending their force and means in petty wars between the Greek states themselves.

In private character they were gay, cheerful and as a rule a happy people, but they were extremely intollerant of other peoples, being cynical, sarcastic and firmly believing all other peoples were barbarians, they were by no means a bashful or diffident race, but really believed that they themselves were the superior race of the earth, and while they were that in fact, yet it would have been a decided improvement in the Greek character if they had been possessed of a becoming modesty; so when we read the history of Greece, we observed a bright, very intelligent people, masters of reason and logic, without the ability or mental character to form a united strong nation; perhaps the Greeks had so many ideas on all subjects they could not put their minds to the task of uniting the Greeks themselves.

For personal bravery in the field of war, they were never excelled, and history bristles with stories of the dauntless courage of the Greeks in battle, and we can imagine what a different course European history would have taken had the Greek states joined, forming a solid nation, forgetting their petty dislikes and jealousies, and presented a united solid front to the other nations. It is very possible that under those conditions, Greece would have been the political ruler of the ancient world, as it happened the country disunited, in the course of time, fell under the dominance of the mighty republic of Rome.

The Greek ideas of life in this world, and also after death were to a great extent metaphysical; Socrates was the first man who believed and taught the doctrine of the immortality of the soul, and who thought the body and soul were separated at death, and that the soul continued to exist in a shadowy state, very hard for us to comprehend. It seems it was a state half human and half shadow, and at the same time with no clear ideas of happiness or punishment for the soul in that state; they also seemed to believe that their Gods to a certain extent, influenced time and event, and took part in one way or another in everything that happened in the country, assisting the Greeks in battle, helping them to raise their crops, guiding their vessels at sea, and generally supervising the efforts of the Greeks in home and in political life.

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It is not possible that the Greeks believe in a literal heaven or hell, those ideas were entirely too fantastical for the practical Greek mind, which was always seeking the why and the wherefore. Anyone trying to teach that doctrine, would have been required at once to produce his proof. The Greek was not inclined to accept any one's declaration on a metaphysical question unless they could give an understandable reason or some valid proof.

After the occupation of Greece by the Romans, the people to a great extent, degenerated, which was certainly caused by their lack of national unity; they seemed to have acquiesced to Roman rule, accepting the peace and security Rome offered, and deeming that a fair price to pay for the privilege of living under the might and power of the Roman Republic.

To sum up the Greek people and their country as a whole, there is no doubt but that they were the greatest race of men that have existed for the lasting benefit and improvement of the human race; no other country gave so much that is good, so much that is noble, beautiful and directly beneficial to all mankind; everything they taught the world, is unexcelled. In ^{Astronomy} ~~Antiquity~~, art, letters, arithmetic, natural science, physics, they were the pioneers, all of the great philosophers ^{who} came after them learned their fundamental principles from Greek teachers and inventors, and no doubt they showed their world. and ours today, the road to clear thinking and logic.

The reason for this is easy to explain. This country of the greatest race of men who ever lived, had no state religion, and no recognized state priesthood; the citizen was not forced to believe any impossible miracle, a priesthood could invent. He was not instructed in fanaticism, bigotry, and senseless dogmas, his mind was free and open to all the truths of nature, and the mind being free, could at all times be open to the light of reason; the minds of the children were not filled with religious fears, and dread of frightful hells with terrible punishment, nor of a dreadful angry God, but were permitted to observe the beauties of nature instead and when they arrived at maturity, the mind was clear, untrammelled and could face life and even death without a tremor.

The world would have been incomparably better off had they copied the Greek state in forbidding the formation of a religion and a recognized priesthood. The Greeks were far too wise to permit such a disturbing element in the country ., disturbing men's minds, and disturbing the state in forever ~~meddling~~ ^{meddling} in politics; if the Greeks left us nothing more, they at least left us the very good example of what a free people can accomplish when their minds are not darkened and debased by a domineering religion and a rapacious ignorant clergy; Greece will ever remain to us a memory of sheer beauty, of golden remembrance, and splendid visions in art and poetry, and the most incomparable race of teachers and thinkers who have lived in this world.

When the first colonist arrived at the River Tiber, and selected the site for the future city of Rome, is not known, nor indeed who they were; it is probable they were a party of Tuscans, Latins, or perhaps Etruscans, for all of these people were located in Italy at that time, and the settlers on the banks of the Tiber could have been a wandering band of any of these people, the beginning of all of those countries are shrouded in mystery, and all we know of them is legend and mythical stories; let us say the first settlers of Rome were a nomadic band, travelling from place to place, and observing the good situation of the spot for a village, erected their huts and proceeded to form a small colony.

It is certain they were herdsmen, also perhaps farmers in a small way, and after building shelter, they planted vines, fruits, grains, and in a small way made a little community to increase and multiply; there were certainly other neighbors and colonies scattered throughout Italy at this period, and the first settlers must have intermarried with the local peoples, raised families and in time became a distinct city and people; there is no history of the events that happened at this time, and it must be a fact that the early Romans could not read nor write; therefore they had no literature and no way to leave a written record of what took place in those early days; what history we have of early Rome, was written a long time after the founding and building of the village, and that history is hearsay, myths and stories that were passed on from generation to generation until a written language was made, and then some intelligent Roman wrote what he could gather as bits of historical tales from all who claimed to know or remember what was told them of how the City was founded and by whom.

Let us remember ~~that~~ that the word history as a rule is taken to mean the written record of facts concerning peoples and Nations; this work may be described in another sense, it may in fact be written his story; that seems to be the better description, all the so-called facts recorded, all the events that took place in that compilation, ~~are~~ simply his story. If we bear that in mind, all history is only the stories of some one relating them, ~~and~~ the facts and events set down in writing in his story.

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The story goes on to tell that twin brothers, Romulus and Remus, located and built a village on the banks of the River Tiber, that they quarreled and ~~Romulus~~ slew his brother, and became the king or ruler of the tribe, and that the village was named after him; Romulus and Remus were described as descending from the gods, and that when young orphaned children were suckled by a she wolf; all of this is recognized today as pure fiction, yet it must be that Romulus must have been a man who actually lived at that period, and left the stamp of his name, and deeds deeply impressed upon the minds of those who followed, for while most we read of him are myths, there must be some foundation for the facts of his real existence, for it seems impossible that all we read of him can be pure invention; So let us believe that Romulus at the head of a body of ~~wanderers~~ ^{wanderers} stopped at the River Tiber and built the City of Rome and started the Roman Nation on its grand career.

Rome grew slowly but surely, and in time additions were made to the land claimed by the city, villages and towns in the immediate vicinity were annexed until there gradually formed a distinct country and a distinct people; It is very clear that no time could be specified when these events actually ~~took~~ took place, it may have been any time between three hundred or five hundred years from the founding of the City until the first written records were made.

The government of the first period of Roman history was a monarchy this is as authentic as any part of early Roman History, and it is also certain that Tarquin the Proud was the last King of Rome, Tarquin and his family were so incensed the citizens of Rome, that they rose up in their might, drove out the Tarquins with all of their followers, and formed a Roman Republic; this proves that even the early Romans were master craftsmen in the art of government, and that ability of the Romans abides with them throughout their whole history, no other people ever learned to govern so wisely and well.

We visualize the early Romans as a kindly, homeloving people, loyal to each other, to the City and community, good husbands and fathers, and they were surely the first race of men that made the home paramount, the first and foremost object in a man's life; loving their homes and their country as they did, it is not a matter of surprise that they were very patriotic, that Rome was always first, always in the right, and they were even in the beginning ready at all times to defend Rome, and their homes to the last extremity; we see this trait of character in the men of Rome throughout their entire history; in every danger, in all calamities, the men of Rome stood steadfast, never despairing, never giving up hope, but always giving to the state the

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the last ounce of his strength, the last drop of his blood.

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In the family the father was supreme, his rule could never be questioned, obedience was instant to his slightest wish or command, the children were taught ^{obedience} ~~obedience~~ to the father from the instant they were born, and that continued during the father's life; the head of the family in Rome, held the power of life and death in his household, and could execute any one of his people who dared to disobey him; this made for a stern discipline which was a splendid bringing up for future good citizens, for the success of all, home city and state, was based upon discipline and obedience; this iron discipline and ready obedience made a strong state out of the small city and community of Rome, for all Romans placed the public good before all else, and was willing to go to any extremity in suffering, want and hardship for the benefit of all. They were the first country that could truly use that motto " United we stand, divided we fall."

The inner home-life of the family, was based upon love and kindness, the husband's loved and respected their wives, making them real partners in the home, while the ^{wife} gave her husband unswerving loyalty and obedience; the children were raised with extremely loving care and kindness. There was a rude abundance and the homes were always bright, cheerful and very happy, everything was done to make the lives of the children happy, they were given ample time for play and exercise, and provision for their health and comfort were ^{astonishingly} ~~astonishing~~ good for that early period, and for the scant means at their command.

It is doubtful if the Romans had any tribal gods in their early period. We know that they had household gods, Lares and Penates, but these appear to have been personal gods of each separate family; the gods of the hearthstone and of the house itself; Libations were poured on the floor for the Lares and the Penates, and salt was scattered about as an offering to these deities; the Romans had no fear of these little household gods, but seemed to think of them as small good fairies- nice to have a round.

The religion finally adopted by the Romans was undoubtedly the Greek mythology which they accepted in full- the only difference was that the Romans changed the names of all the Greek Gods, and gave them Roman names, Zeus became Jupiter, Athena was called Minerva, and so on through the whole list; the Gods are identically the same, only with different names; It is certain the Romans looked upon the gods as individuals far more than the Greeks, who really looked ^{upon} ~~at~~ them as parts of nature itself. While the Romans more simple in mind and metaphysics, gave the

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gods an individuality and existence that was form like and real; the Romans never feared the Gods as other peoples did. They looked upon them more as friends and protectors of the state and people, and they certainly had no ideas of a future state of bliss or punishment; they were a very sensible and practical people, living for the present, but forever building for the future. As all Roman citizens strived during his whole life to make the City and State stronger, larger and one to be looked up to, and feared and respected by every other state.

Patriotism was the abiding virtue of the citizens, the good of the state was of paramount importance for a strong state made for security and peace in the homes. This virtue was so highly developed, that in the days of the Republic the proudest boast any man could make, was. "I am a Roman Citizen" and this proud boast became known all over the ancient world; every citizen was a soldier from his 18th to his 55th year. In his youth of the first line of troops, at maturity the second, and finally the elders were the last reserve, and this reserve in the days of the Republic proved unconquerable.

The Roman^R very early displayed military genius, it seems an inherent virtue in them, not only to be good soldiers in the field, but also to have the knack of tactical command which was displayed in all of their military enterprises; they also had genius in organization; the Roman armies were the first formed in regular order, and all nations tried to imitate them in the formation of their forces for battle, and even the conduct of their different bodies of troops, was planned before an engagement, this was surely a good reason for the early military successes of the nation.

The unit of the army was the company of 100 men commanded by a centurian, or as we would call him Captain; ten companies formed a cohort, officered by a commandant, and ~~the~~ ten cohorts formed a legion commanded by a general, two or more legions formed an army commanded by a Consul, this with the Cavalry and Pioneers were the field army.

In order to force the men to close quarters with the enemy, ~~there~~ their weapons were made short, the principle arm was the double-edge sword, thick and heavy, but very short. This compelled the infantry to join into very close quarters with the enemy, never retreating, but always driving in; they also had throwing spears, or javlins, and a short heavy spear carried in the fight, called the pilum, those were the weapons carried by the main line into battle, and all were especially designed for close and bloody work.

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We have reviewed the beginning of the Roman nation, passing over very briefly the time when Rome was a kingdom for that period is not very interesting to the student; the real history of Rome begins with the republic, ~~and~~ it reaches the pinnacle of its power under the republic and its decline and fall under the Empire; the Republic was governed by the Senate, or Elders. This was a body of the wisest best known, most highly respected elder citizens who were given control over all governmental affairs by the citizen, and as these elders were patriotic, they gave the republic the benefit of their experience, and governed Rome wisely and well; every year two Consuls were elected by the Senate, and these two men held the executive power for one year only, a Consul could not succeed himself, and in time of great danger or distress, the Senate appointed a Dictator, who had supreme power over the whole state during his time in Office.

The wisdom of the Romans is displayed in the fact that Rome never had or permitted a state religion, and so the country never at any period of ^{its} ~~history~~ ^{had} an official priesthood; there were a few priests appointed by the Senate to take charge of the temples erected to the Gods, for the Romans did erect temples to their deities, and an officiating priest was usually put in charge to carry out sacrifices and officiate at ceremonies conducted to appeal to these deities in order to keep them friendly to the people; these priests did not in any manner interfere with the life or private affairs of the citizen; there were no churches as we know them, and no citizen was compelled to attend any church or worship in a proscribed ritual; the citizen was free to believe whatever he chose to believe, and it was his own affair if he did not believe anything, or if he did not worship at all.

Rome and Greece were the two countries that did not have a state Religion, nor an official priesthood, consequently these two nations, the Roman Republic and the Greek democracy, ^{are} ~~or~~ to this day the two greatest countries the world has known. Greece gave the world knowledge, and Rome wisdom in government.

From the very beginning of the Republic, Rome advanced in prestige and power, ever the state expanded, the wealth of the citizen steadily increased, the Senate gained, and increased in good sense, in governmental affairs, and at the outbreak of the Punic wars with Carthage, Rome was without doubt the best governed country in the known world.

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The Republic had engaged in numerous wars and as a rule they were successfully concluded, for the obedience, discipline and stern patriotic courage of its citizen soldiery, could never be overcome however, strong their opponents; the one shock that almost ruined the Republic, was the Punic Wars with Carthage, and that grave danger was caused by the genius of one of the first commanders in military history, Hannibal the Garthageinian, whose campaign on Roman soil in the second Punic War, brought Rome to the verge of ruin, but the grand courage steadfast patriotism and military genius of the Romans finally saved the Republic and brought ruin and total destruction to Carthage.

When Rome destroyed Carthage, they saved the City, the State, Europe, the world, and all humanity from ruin, civilization itself was at stake in that terrible conflict, and the victory of the Romans set the world free from a menace so dire that we shudder today when we contemplate what a depth of misery, suffering and despair the peoples of the world would have been plunged into had Carthage been the victor, and even to this day, the world owes a debt of gratitude to the Republic for its fortitude in preventing the return to barbarianism of all the countries existing at that time.

In saving the world from Cathaginian rule and making the other countries safe from the destructive political policies of Carthage, the Romans themselves did not enjoy an unmixed blessing from the victory, for Rome itself suffered severely from the wars, not only in cost of life, and the vast destruction of material wealth, but other evils crept into the country; thousands of disbanded soldiers, hundreds of thousands of slaves, and fugitives, beggars, paupers and thieves, bandits, and rogues and the lowest class of people, flooded Rome and Italy; poverty was rampant and a vast number of indigent people had to be fed by the State; the population became unruly, robbery and murder alarmingly increased, and the government was put to a severe test to keep the peace.

At this time two personal parties began to form, led by rich men, and successful soldiers, and after prolonged peace, the country was plunged into civil war; this was the saddest part of the history of the Republic, and was the beginning of the end of Roman Supremacy; When Rome fought a foreign foe, Roman arms united were unconquerable, but when Roman fought Roman, the ^{bloodiest} ~~bloody~~ scenes in history ensued; when one side in civil war was defeated, the winners proceeded to butcher in cold blood all of the survivors of the defeated party, they could lay their hands on, and as each side won, at one time or another, we can

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Imagine the frightful, needless slaughter that took place, usually the finest and highest type of citizens losing their lives in these senseless ambitious strifes; when the civil wars finally came to an end, the best and noblest of the Romans had perished, and the country never really recovered from the loss of so many of its greatest and best citizens; the greatness of the country passed away with the civil wars, patriotism gave way to party loyalty, and the good of the country was lost sight of in the supposed benefit adhering to a party; the Senate itself losing sight of the interest of the country as a whole, took sides in the civil strife, and the interest of the state were debased to their own private quarrels, their own greed for gain at the expense of their foes, and the country gradually became a ~~prey~~ ^{prey} to the strongest party.

This was the state of the country when the greatest man that ever lived appeared on the scene; he was a youth during the civil struggles between Sylla and Marius, a relative of Marius ^{who had retired} ~~returned~~ an exile from the struggle; Sylla proceeded to put to death, all of Marius' friends and supporters, this youth was proscribed and ordered to be executed, but for some reason Sylla spared him, possibly because the youth ^{Marius} ~~had~~ had the courage to disobey and order ~~him~~ ^{himself} gave him, but at any rate, he did spare him, and he grew to manhood and is the world's great genius, the man who accomplished more in his life than any other man who has ever existed; this man was Caius Julius Caesar.

He was a member of one of the old patrician families of Rome, the Julian Gens, and in his life put the stamp of his genius on the world, the effects of which are felt today; Caesar's youth was spent in riotous living, spending money right and left, living far beyond his means, running up a large debt, and only living for all the fun he could crowd into his life, so at the age of twenty, we find him head over heels in debt, a handsome young man, a model of fashion, well educated, a master of oratory and letters, talented, pleasant, a boone companion, heedless of advice, ~~and~~ ^{or} criticism, and a young man who seemed to be cut out as a useless spendthrift, a total loss to his family and to society and the state, and it is possible that at this period of his life, his friends and relatives must have considered him a total failure, not only to his own personal family ~~and~~ ^{and} gens, but to society in general and the state as well. Yet in his early teens he made a decision that changed not only Caesar himself, but changed Rome and even Europe.

Caesar decided to travel to see the world, to broaden his mind by contact with different peoples and governments, and possibly to escape his pursuing creditors, he may also have had some idea of re-establishing his finances, as he had a delicate commission from the Senate to a foreign potentate which he hoped to end with benefit to Rome and personal profit to himself, it is told that while on this journey he was captured by sea-robbers and held to ransom; he made ^{friends} with his captors by being agreeable, charming and pleasant, joined in their sports, told them tales which sent them into gales of laughter, and one day told them in a serious manner, that when released, he would return and crucify the lot, they considered this a fine joke, but when the ransom was paid, and he was released, he gathered together a strong force, attacked the pirates on their island, took all of them prisoners who did not perish in the attack, and then proceeded to crucify them all; this story shows that Caesar even as a young man could accomplish any enterprise, no matter how difficult when ~~once he~~ ^{once he} had finally made up his mind to bring to a successful conclusion any task he had taken upon himself to settle.

He returned to Rome and decided to ^{enter} politics, a very dangerous profession at that time, but fear never deterred Caesar, for he was naturally brave, and had very good sense and judgment. He could hold his own with the best; he is thought to have intrigued with Cataline in that turbulent man's conspiracy, but when an end was put to the conspiracy by Cicero, it was found Caesar had kept himself clear, and no serious charge could be placed against him.

Caesar now occupied all of the offices a politician had to alternate in in rising to power, he served successfully as Curule, Aedile, Quaestor and Praetor, after holding that office, he was appointed Governor of Spain which position gave him enough money to pay his debts; upon his return to Rome, he with Pompey and Crassus, formed the first Triumverate, which governed Rome, Pompey the soldier, Crassus the man of wealth, and Caesar the politician; Caesar had been elected, Consul upon his return from Spain, and when his Consulship expired, he was appointed Proconsul of Gaul, this was the actual beginning of Caesar's grand career in civilizing Europe; the next ten years are the most remarkable in any man's history. In those ten years, Western Europe was brought into contact with influences which are felt today.

Caesar's first task was to conquer Gaul, pacify the country, and give it a stable form of government, this was a mighty task. The inhabitants were a fierce war-like people, brave and hardy beyond words, and capable of

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incredible endurance in warfare; as the tribes were so distributed that no matter where peace was established, the flame of revolt would burst out in another locality; it took military genius of a very high order to quell the incessant warfare that was continually smouldering, and then raging in all parts of the country; Caesar was master of all events; no crisis was so severe but that he had the will and force of character to meet and subdue it, for not only had he supreme military ability, but he was also a master of politics and a man born to form governments.

As Caesar conquered each tribe of Gaul, he gave that tribe local self-government, taught the natives the rules of Civil Law and Order, and laid the foundation for all future civil governments in Gaul; this policy of state was very beneficial to the inhabitants of Gaul, as it taught them to think and act along the lines of statemanship, the governing of a state for the interest of the whole body of the people; this policy of Caesar's was carried out also in the conquest of Belgium and England, the Belgians were more turbulent than the Gauls, and even harder to subdue, but Caesar finally by strategy, sense and a kindly attitude towards their leaders, brought them within the Roman Domain.

The invasion of England was a far more difficult task, the sea had to be crossed, and added to the dangers of navigation, Caesar had to face a very brave and warlike people, an army which could fight, or retreat at will, and the country being a vast unknown wilderness, it was almost impossible to come to grips and defeat the Britons in a decisive battle; all strategic means had to be employed to reduce the country into a state resembling peace, and finally by fortitude, patience, skill and splendid military tactics, the inhabitants of England were subjugated, brought under Roman rule and for four hundred years the good influence of Roman civilization was placed as a good example before the barbarians who at that time formed the population of England, and that was the beginning of the rise to civilization of one of the best governments ever devised by man, and that good influence reaches down to this day in the wise and beneficent government of Great Britain.

After the pacification of North Europe, Caesar returned to Gaul as Governor; ^{he} ~~the~~ ^{opened} courts of law, appointed local administrators, set up the Roman Civil Law, and in time brought order out of Chaos, the people settling down to peace and prosperity, and from then on civilization gained yearly, and this effort paved the way for the creation of modern France, the torch of intelligence of the modern world.

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At this time Pompey was all-powerful in Rome, the Senate being under his control, passed whatever legislation he desired, and as Caesar's fame spread, Pompey and the Senate became jealous of his power, and feared his rising popularity, they therefore determined by any means in their power, to prevent Caesar's return to Rome; in the meantime the Senate had formed five new legions of troops- two of which were to be sent to Caesar, but under a pretext of necessity, Pompey retained Caesar's legions under his own command in spite of Caesar's repeated demands that his troops be sent to him to replace and fill his depleted ranks.

The time approached when the Consuls should be elected, and it was Caesar's turn to hold the office, the Senate demanded that he leave his army in Gaul, and return alone to Rome for the election; this was a trap set for him, for had he returned alone, in all probability, he would have been ~~assassinated~~ ^{assassinated}. Seeing through this device, he refused to return to Rome, ordered the election to be held in his absence, and at the same time demanded that his two legions under Pompey's illegal control be sent to him at once; the Tribune Mark Anthony, Caesar's daring representative, boldly demanded this of the Senate, and so incensed the Senators, that although the person of a Tribune was sacred according to Roman law, they determined to have Anthony slain, and on learning of the design, fled from Rome, and joined Caesar in his camp.

Caesar now saw plainly that Pompey and the Senate had made up their minds to destroy him, Pompey had convinced the Senate and his followers that he was invincible, and that the nation and the armies would spring to their assistance at his appeal, so they made up their minds to resist Caesar at all cost, fully believing that in a Civil war, Pompey and the Senate being in physical possession of Rome, Caesar could be defeated, his army destroyed by Pompey, and Caesar himself be put to death.

Caesar at that time was camped on the Rubicon, a small river dividing his legal command from that of Pompey; when he had heard Anthony's recital of the events in Rome, seeing no chance for a peaceful settlement, and knowing full well that he could never obtain justice from the Senate, as it was then constituted, determined to march on Rome; he had under his command his veteran legions, soldiers that had marched with him all over Northern Europe, who would follow him and obey him blindly, and having full confidence in his own ability, decided to cross the Rubicon, thereby de-

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declaring war on the Senate; he is said to have made the remark, when his soldiers had advanced to the river to cross; "The die is cast." which may be hearsay, but it is possible that he made that remark.

Instantly Rome was in a turmoil, the Senate demanded protection of Pompey, who frantically called upon the citizens and soldiers to join the ranks, and defend the Senate from Caesar's threat; but neither the Senate, nor Pompey had the full measure of Caesar's ability and far-sighted genius, Caesar without the slightest hesitation advanced very rapidly upon Rome itself, and before frightened Rome, could put its resources together, Caesar and his veterans were within a short distance of the Capitol; consternation and fear reigned amongst all of Caesar's enemies, who fled the Capitol including Pompey himself, who gathering together what soldiers he could trust, retreated at stop speed, and embarked his army for Greece, where he arrived safely.

In the meantime, Caesar was master of Rome without a struggle, and we notice in that event, a splendid trait of character in that grand man; in the Civil wars in the ancient world, the defeated party were always put to death, no mercy was shown to a known enemy, but so great was Caesar in heart and mind, that he magnanimously pardoned all who had opposed him that were captured in the City, or who had surrendered themselves to his mercy, this is the only example of its kind in the history of the ancient world, and Caesar is the one splendid man that could show the world how to temper justice with mercy; that example of his could be well patterned by all men and all governments.

Caesar was now absolute master of Rome, the cowed Senators who had remained submitted to his will, and he proceeded at once to reorganize the government, the finances were stabilized, the law courts ordered to resume their functions, rioting and disorder was sternly suppressed, and once more the citizens could live without fear and go about their usual occupations, knowing full well that peace and order had finally been restored; during all of this preoccupation in Rome, it never escaped Caesar's mind that Pompey would have to be finally suppressed, there was not enough room in the Roman world for two masters; he made overtures to Pompey to make a peace by negotiation, to arbitrate their differences by peaceful means, but Pompey greatly fearing Caesar and being small in mind himself, could not believe Caesar sincere, and refused all offers of a friendly settlement, so Caesar was forced to prepare his means to end the deadlock by force of arms.

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Rome being pacified and the City settled down to a quiet state of stability and peace, Caesar began his preparation to follow Pompey to Greece and put an end to the civil war; He embarked his army at Brundisum after many severe difficulties, and finally landed on the shores of Greece, and then began one of the strangest military campaigns of which we have any record; Pompey had the largest army, Caesar the more disciplined, far and with more experience ~~with~~ of the Science of warfare and battle; Caesar by maneuver tried to bring on a general engagement, but Pompey fearing Caesar's ability, refused open combat and fortified his camp every time his army moved into a new position; this maneuvering went on for a long time until Caesar's forces penned the enemy into a set position from which they could not retreat, and forced Pompey to come to an engagement; this meeting took place at Parssilia in Thessely, and there the second decisive battle of the world took place; again Caesar demonstrated his military genius, although outnumbered by Pompey's forces, by skill and the dauntless courage of his tried veterans, he inflicted a disastrous defeat on Pompey's army, practically destroyed it, and Pompey in despair fled from the field and embarked on a vessel bound for Egypt ; and upon reaching the shore was recognized and his captors wishing to gain Caesar's favor, put Pompey to death; Caesar pursuing the person of Pompey, arrived ~~in~~ on the scene too late to save him, but sincerely mourned his death, and is said to have severely punished the murderers who had caused Pompey's demise ~~demise~~.

This put an end to the civil war, and Caesar was now master of all of the Roman world; he stayed in Egypt long enough to end a civil war between Cleopatra and her brother, finally placing Cleopatra on the throne of Egypt, and after a prolonged stay, returned to Rome.

Leaving Egypt after that Country was thoroughly pacified, Caesar returned to Rome to be greeted and acclaimed by a happy gratified people, the man most trusted and beloved by the whole population of the City; after a short rest, Caesar began to lay out the plans for the most far reaching stabilizing public improvements in government, plans which if carried through would make the whole Roman world civilized, and safe; all the coin of all countries was to be called in and a new state coin minted that would have the same value everywhere, a universal set of weights and measures for all countries that would be of lasting benefit to commerce, a new code of just laws, civil and criminal to govern Rome itself and all provinces, and a grand program for buildings and roads that would have embraced all of the Roman world. the program was so far sighted, so vast

and would have been of such far-reaching benefit to future generations, that even today the magnitude of the projects are astounding.

Caesar at that time was fifty six years old, at the height of his mental power and vision, and had he lived fifteen years longer, which would have been time enough to carry out these vast projects to a successful conclusion, we can confidently say that the world would have progressed very rapidly in enlightenment and knowledge- in good government and good living, that it is certain there would not have been fourteen hundred years of dark ages in Europe, and the Christian Church would never have succeeded the Roman Empire, and became the successor of the Caesars and the masters of Europe. The end of Caesar's projects for the improvement of the Roman commonwealth, almost put an end to European civilization.

In Rome at that time, as in many other countries since, there were many dissatisfied men, who were jealous of Caesar's fame, who looked upon themselves as patriotic citizens, alone moved for the public good, having all of the virtues of bigotted men, and probably wanting power in office for themselves, these men formed a conspiracy against Caesar's life; this crowd of conspirators was led by some well known men whom Caesar had trusted and whom he did not deign to fear; it is said Caesar was warned of the conspiracy, but treated the matter with contempt, relying on his popularity with the Roman people.

The conspiracy was finally brought to a head, and upon entering the Senate chamber, he was assaulted by a large group of armed Senators and at once saw they were determined to put him to death; he drew his sword to defend his life, but seeing Brutus one of his best and most trusted friends amongst the ~~assassins~~ ^{assassins} he exclaimed "Thou too Brutus" dropped his sword, covered his face with his mantle, and fell dead, pierced with numerous wounds inflicted by the daggers of his ~~assassins~~ ^{assassins}.

The murder of Caesar stunned the people, on every side, was grief and despair, the ~~assassins~~ ^{assassins} tried to give as a reason for the bloody deed that Caesar was ambitious, and wished to destroy the liberty of the people, but when the population had time to reflect, they remembered that Caesar was the only man who had given them peace and liberty, and at once the conspirators were outlawed, fled in haste from Rome and gathered together an army to defend their lives from the vengeance of Caesar's friends and the Roman people.

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The Senate and the public at once formed a large army, placed it under the command of the second triumvirate, Antony, Octavius, and Lepidas which was to find and punish the murderers, whose army was led by two of the ablest of the conspirators, Brutus and Cassius, but the Republican Army commanded by Antony coming up with the conspirators at Phillipi in Macedonia forced them to battle, destroyed their army and caused the leaders to commit suicide. This ended the civil war and left the new triumvirate masters of Rome; Of the second triumvirate, Antony was the strongest character, a good soldier and personally brave; Octavius was the politician, subtle, far-seeing and able to await his time with patience; Lepidas was the weakling, and in a short time, completely lost his power in ^a ~~his~~ share of the government.

This condition could not last, for no two ambitious men could divide power and authority without conflict, and as all Rome was tired of war, Antony and Octavius decided to divide the government between themselves. Antony took the east, and Octavius the West. This was the first division of the Roman commonwealth which in after years became permanent.

Antony took possession of the eastern provinces, organized them, settled all disputes, and at first governed wisely and well; but unfortunately he met Cleopatra- Queen of Egypt, and ^{became} ~~became~~ violently infatuated with her, so much in fact that he journeyed with her to Egypt, and neglected his own government, spending his time in idleness and debauchery; Octavius learning of this, and desiring supreme command in the Roman world, made up his mind to crush Antony and seize the reins of Universal power; thus satisfying his vaulting ambition and putting away a political rival whom he hated and feared.

Octavius had a good pretext to begin the war; Antony had married his sister, and as he was now living openly with Cleopatra, this gave Octavius a reason to bring on an open rupture, and declare war; both sides prepared for the conflict that was to end in one man dominating the world; Antony had the advantage as the war would be fought out in the East, his own locality, and he could rely on the assistance of the Egyptian army and fleet, while Octavius was forced to march his army a long ways to the seat of war; in time Octavius brought his army face to face with Antony's forces at Actium, where Antony awaited him with his own army, supplemented with Egyptian troops, and his fleet was joined by all of the Egyptian war vessels; so before the battle joined all things looked propitious for Antony to win a splendid victory, and gain the mastery of the world; Yet when the battle began, a ~~strange~~

strange event happened, which has never been explained, during the battle

the warships of Cleopatra, suddenly raised their anchors and with Cleopatra's barge, sailed away, apparently in flight, and Antony deserting his army boarded a vessel and started a mad pursuit of Cleopatra; this flight left Octavius master of the field, Antony's forces being without their leader, surrendered, and Antony cast aside the rule of the world for a woman's smile.

After the victory was completed, Octavius pursued Antony and Cleopatra with vigor, they had retreated in haste to the Capital, but they had no time to organize a firm resistance to Octavius' advance, and knowing well that if taken prisoners they would be dragged to Rome to be made a mocking spectacle in Octavius' triumph, they decided to die rather than suffer that humiliation, so upon the approach of Octavius' Cavalry, Antony and Cleopatra destroyed themselves.

This tragedy is the most silly and senseless one can imagine. The conduct of Antony and Cleopatra viewed in our time, seems the foolish child-play of two lunatics, both lacked common sense to a degree that makes ~~the whole~~ the whole tragedy seem rather like a play on the stage, then the actual living work of two people who held the destinies of millions of people in their hands, and it is probably a good thing for the world that Antony never gained supreme power.

Octavius returned in triumph to Rome. The second man who had gained supreme power over the Roman commonwealth, ^{he used} ~~and~~ that power wisely and well; the Senate was again raised to a position of dignity, but Octavius held firm authority over it by placing his friends in the Senate, thereby keeping control in his own hands; he was not a good soldier, but was a wise politician, and knew well how to govern without force or bloodshed; with Octavius now styled "Augustus" came an end to the Roman Republic, and henceforth the government became an Empire ruled by one man, and this was the real beginning of the end of the supremacy of Rome; from the period of the reign of Augustus, began the change in the dating of the world's annals, all the dates of history were dated from then on as "B.C. or correctly " Before Caesar", writers and historians, a long time afterwards, when they took possession of the profession of historical writings, made this to read "Before Christ", but in spite of this changing the ^{of} ~~mean-~~ing dative, the real facts are that the division of time was really "Before Caesar."

Augustus consolidate the Empire, made Roman government safe in all of the provinces, saw that the law was obeyed, that a spirit of justice prevailed, and in general ~~was~~ his rule was beneficent to all of

the citizens who were happier and more contented than they had been for several generations.

From this period on, Emperors ruled Rome, some good, some bad, and some indifferent, and the result was the government sank lower and lower, it was too large, too unwieldy, and ~~too~~ and entirely too diversified to be governed by the will of one man, no one man could have the strength of will and judgment to govern so vast a territory, there were bound to be weaklings amongst the rulers, and besides supreme authority is usually fatal to good character, when held by a man lacking talent and supreme virtue, so the Roman government was bound to decay, patriotism was dead in the hearts of the people; the love of country gave place to a certain pride in the empire, but even that was false pride, usually being inspired by a hope to gain by flattery and subservience, honor and probity were lost sight of, and chicanery, selfishness and acquisitiveness took their place, and ~~whereas the Romans~~ ~~were once~~ the proudest people, we now find them lost to all sense of honesty, personal dignity and of any real sense of loyalty to their government; This explains the misrule and failure of the Roman Empire, as a governing body, and also explains why it fell lower and lower as a civilizing influence throughout Europe, as the government was not respected at home, neither was it respected abroad, and that encouraged the barbarians on all sides to attack the empire at will, as it was too vast to be defended on all sides at once, so the very great size of the empire was one of its main weaknesses.

But the worst feature of all, was the army which was in the beginning, composed entirely of Roman citizens, but under the emperors a hired, paid mercenary body of men who were not citizens, and had no native love of country, either fighting for gain and plunder, or they were the best men of conquered peoples who were forcibly drafted into the ranks of the Emperor's army; thus composed the army was not dependable to defend the country, and instead of being patriotic, it became all powerful, and finally the Pratorian Guard became ~~as the~~ masters of the Emperors themselves, and made and unmade rulers at the will and command of their leaders.

The history of Rome at this period is interesting to the student but is usually very tiresome to the average reader, so it is useless to go into details; the country went from bad to worst until it became split into two empires- the east and the west, a further sign of decay and death, neither was strong, and neither were good governments, as both of them

retained all the vicious faults of the empire when it was a united one man government; the division of the government made it easier to attack from all sides, and the surrounding barbarians took full advantage of that weakness, besides that we know that no large country can be always controlled when the majority of the citizens have no voice in the government.

The religion of Rome from the Punic wars until the division of the empire is one we can follow closely and well, for at no time in all that period of Roman history did they have a state religion or priesthood; every Roman could worship or not as he pleased, and above all, it is well known that Rome tolerated all Gods and all religions; any sect or any religion could set up and worship any god they pleased as long as they did not attempt to disobey the law, the Roman citizen could worship any foreign god, or join any religious sect without the slightest interference of the Government, and no other country in the world ever tolerated all religions as did Rome.

Many smug hypocritical clerics have written histories depicting the terrible persecutions of the Christians during the reigns of the Emperors, but these stories are down right falsehoods, written for the express purpose of creating saints, and more generally used for religious propaganda; the Roman Empire did not persecute the Christians on account of their religion, for all religions were tolerated in Rome, but the Christians were persecuted for a very different and a very good reason.

At that time, the Christian religion in Rome was composed of the lowest, vilest, dregs of society; slaves, thieves, murderers, beggars, the floating scum of all the rotten nations of the east, turbulent, vicious, disobeying all law, without any moral restraint, and forever causing riot and disturbance throughout the city; they were the prototypes of the anarchists, reds, communists, bolshevicks, and their ilk that we have in our midst today.

The Roman government did not persecute these sweet Christians at any time on account of their religion, but they did by all means in the power of the government try to suppress the turbulent fanatics even to the extent of putting them to death in batches; the Roman government slew the Christians as the Bolchevicks slew the Russians for political reasons only, and not a man in Rome cared in the least particular what the Christians worshipped; the Christians by their disturbances and violence brought on their own punishment, and that is the plain truth of the

matter in spite of the unceasing labors of the clerical writers to make saints and martyrs by the thousands; the student can always understand the reason for the clerical efforts, but we can never lose sight in real authentic history that Rome tolerated all religions and permitted all religious worship.

We do not find in any histories of that period a record of government persecutions of the sect called Christians, all we know of them are contained in histories written by Christians to make the early Christians appear sweet, tender, gentle lamb-like angels, abused and persecuted by the wicked Roman Empire, simply because they were worshipping their hand-made only true God; this is arrant nonsense. Had the Christians conducted themselves in any other country as they did in Rome, they would have been persecuted and prosecuted as they were in Rome; they reaped as they sowed, no more and no less.

All religions are the same in this respect- when they are in supreme power in a state, religiously speaking, they torture, burn, and slay all members of any other religion, they may get their hands on, but when any other country or religion persecutes one of the members of their own good, pure and only true religion, why they howl, and whine like whipped curs; all religions persecute when they have the power; they would this very day, if they dared; but all histories show, and reason and logic proves, that Rome never persecuted any one on account of his religion and that Rome did not slay one single Christian on account of his worship of his own made personal God; this assertion is made in spite of the attitude of all Christian fiction writers from the time of Augustus until today.

Another event took place at this period that shows this matter up very plainly, that was the siege and destruction of Jerusalem by a Roman army commanded by Titus, who captured and destroyed the City, and killed or dispersed all of its inhabitants; this stupendous event is not recorded as a religious persecution by the Christian historians, but purely as a political matter, the Jews had been as turbulent and rebellious as the Christians, and the Emperor ordered their destruction in Jerusalem exactly as their government in Rome tried to suppress them in that city and for the same identical political reason, had the Jews obeyed the Roman law they would not have been disturbed, and had the Christians in Rome obeyed the law, they would not have been persecuted, but would have been permitted to worship their God, preached their doctrines in peace, and the Government would have done nothing to prevent their peaceful increase in numbers

or to prevent them from extening their beliefs throughout the Roman world. 89

So it is not possible for a thinking man to believe in the Christian storjes of the Roman persecution of the meek and lowly followers of their Christ, for it is certain that they were not meek, but we are willing to concede that they were the lowest of the low; so the religion of Rome can be said to be no religion, or it may be stated that all of the religions of the world were Roman religions, for it is certain all the religions of that time were openly practiced in the eternal city, and it is possible Roman citizens were members of each and every creed.

Rome now continues to decline in wealth, and power, for there is nothing to hold the unwieldy empire together, no common interest of the people in the government, or state that would prevent the spread of dry rot and decay; the Roman was no longer respected, or feared, and nothing was ever done to again make the people patriotic and to raise their lost self-respect as citizens of the ruling power of the earth; the Eastern and western empires were at enmity, neither would help the other in time of danger, so each in turn suffered from the invasion of ~~xx~~ strong barbarian races, which continuing from time to time, gradually so weakened the western Roman empire that the last powerful invasion of Barbarians in the Fifth Century, caused the down fall of the Western Roman Empire and the proud City of the republic and the Emperors lay in the ashes of defeat at the feet of its barbarian conquerors.

When the Roman empire of the west fell, all political power in Rome ceased, there was only one authority remaining, and that was the Bishop of Rome, who being politically astute immediately seized upon the political power, and made himself governmental head of the City, and formed of the ashes of empire a new political state, and the Christian Church of Rome, became the successor of the Pagan Roman Government; the Roman empire of the West, and the Catholic Church, are one and the same thing under a different name.

When the Catholic Church inherited the Roman empire, it inherited all of its vices, but none of its virtues, it surely inherited the Paganism of Rome, with all of its Pagan Ceremonies, but without the tolerance of the mild Roman view of religion, which permitted the worship of all religions, while the Catholic Church denied the freedom of religious worship to all other creeds, even to the extent of using force and torture to stamp out the service of all other creeds, in other words, the Catholic historians decry the persecution by the Roman Emperors, and they themselves become the most relentless religious persecutors of all religious creeds.

We have now viewed Rome from its beginning as a small village on the banks of the Tiber, its rise to high eminence as the first and mightiest Republic, its change from a mighty Republic to a world-wide Empire, then the gradual decline of the Empire until it fell so low that it became an easy prey to the first strong party that attacked it; from first to last, Rome was of great benefit to the world, it taught us the Republican form of government, it saved the world in the Punic wars, from the darkest danger that ever menaced humanity, it taught all nations how to build roads, and to govern conquered provinces, and above all taught all people toleration in religion and local self government.

The worst calamity that befell the world in the destruction of the Roman Empire, was the succession of the Catholic Church, to its political power, for from that time on, the Catholic Church ceased to be religious and became instead a political and financial power, and whereas the Roman Government spread light and knowledge throughout the world, the Catholic Church on the other hand, stopped all intellectual pursuits and plunged the world into the degrading dark ages, which lasted until the philosophy of the seventeen century again brought light to the peoples of the world by reviving the scientific knowledge of the ancient Greeks; Roman history from the building of the City, during the kingdom, under the Republic, controlled by the Emperors, and even during its decline and fall, is one of the most glorious chapters in world history.

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CHAPTER XI
P e r s i a

This country of Central Western Asia has had a very strange, but not an interesting history, the original settlers appear to have come from Central Asia, and were without doubt a branch of the Aryan race, they do not resemble the Phoenecians in any respect, and were no doubt a different people entirely; when Persia was first settled, is problematical, there is no historical data to give us a certain start, and like so many Asiatic Empires, its history is mostly hear-say and mythical.

As a rule, the government has been a despotic empire without a partical^{of} liberty for the people, in fact, for countless ages the inhabitants have been to all intents and purposes, slaves to a despotic government; under one or two despotic emperors, such as Xerxes and Dairus, there has been a flash of genius and power displayed, but it was short lived and the country sank back into a state of lethargy that made them for a long time, an easy prey for all of the stronger natives surrounding them. The trouble with Persia was that the government was never stable, it was usually under the sway of a despot, the changes were rapid from one set of rulers to another, and any strong man had no trouble in seizing the reigns of power and setting up his own government at will; this kept the vast majority of the people in a state of humble subjugation, for never having any voice in public affairs, they remained at all times densely ignorant of all that went on in the world surrounding them.

They were a deeply religious people, very superstitious, believers in all kinds of miracles, students~~and~~ and teachers of astrology, but having no conception whatever of natural science, and all of the acts of nature were to them deeply mysterious, they had no power of mind in deduction or reflection, and firmly believed that every little act of nature was set in motion, and followed its course by the power or will of some supernatural agency.

This strange people made a very strange religion which is based on a written Bible, as so many other religions are, this Bible is known as the Avesta, and was probable written when Persia was known as Iran, the original name of the country; the religion was supposed to have been invented by Zoro-Aster, the great phophet of Iran, who may have been a mythical character, as nothing is known of him outside of the Persian version of his life and works; at any rate Zoro-Aster made a beautiful religion for the peculiar mind and temperment of the Persians, again demonstrating that

peoples all make their Gods and religions to resemble themselves; this is most certainly ^{proved} ~~proved~~ in Zoroasterism, which is strictly Persian and has not been adopted by any other race; while the religion itself has not been adopted by any others, its creed certainly has; it is certain the early Christians adopted all of the creed, and all of the miracles of Zoroaster and the mythical creed of Zoroasterism, is the basic foundation of the early Christian Church.

We read in the Avesta the entire story of the immaculate conception in all of its details, which seems to be a favorite start for many creeds and religions, in fact most ancient creeds have a story of a miraculous birth of some kind, for the makers of religion and its priests all labored under the impression that it was necessary to astound and over-awe the ignorant, whom they would have to convert to their way of thinking, so we find the miraculous birth worked over and over again, so when the early Christians started their new religion, they found the story of the immaculate conception awaiting them in the Avesta, which they readily adopted as the major story of their creed; the Avesta also tells the story of the trinity, which we again find in all ancient religions except one, the Jewish religion, but as the Jews, had nothing to do with the start of the Christian religion, the men who started that new religion did not hesitate to adopt the story of the Trinity from the Avesta, and pronounced it a part of their own creed and their own particular invention.

The Avesta like the Christian Bible, which imitated it, is filled with numerous miracles, nothing is natural, nothing is attributed or left to nature, everything must be dumb-founding, astonishing, and the people must be impressed and dazzled by the very superior miracles of their own particular God; Note how all these religions and miracles repeat themselves, as one religion dies down, another springs into existence to take its place, and at once adopts its creed, its ceremonies, and its numerous miracles, in fact all religions, are a pattern and a model, taken from all other creeds and religions that have gone before.

The Zoroasterians believed in many gods, and in thousands of devils, in fact like some moderns, they believed that not only was hell densely populated with devils, but that the earth itself was full of them. Each person had his own particular devil to worry him, but this devil was ably assisted by numerous other devils who seem to have been expressly created to worry the life out of a man while he lived, and then having

the great pleasure of burning him in eternal fire after he was dead, this peculiar arrangement must be highly satisfactory to the devils, and caused them joy and happiness, but where man comes in the picture, we have another tale to tell, for from this we must imagine that man was expressly created to please and amuse the devils; the Avesta also has the regular old fashioned hell with its numerous devils, its everlasting fire, its fiendish torture for ignorant suffering humanity, and as usual, this hell was full to the brim with sinners who did not strictly obey the priests and contribute liberally to their support, it is easy to imagine that the priests made their particular hell as terrifying as they possibly could, for installing more fear into the minds of the people, they could more easily subjugate them, and keep them under control by dumb-fear.

The Priests of Zoroasterism took full advantage of this condition, and the result is, the Persians were ever an ignorant and backward race, without education, progress or love of country, and indeed that is a good reason why they were so easily held in subjection by stronger and more intelligent people surrounding them.

Of the religion of Zoroaster, there is very little left. But what has been adopted by the Christian Church, and the people and the country like their religion, has cut a very small figure in world affairs; this story of Zoroaster, making a religion for the Priests of his creed, writing the Avesta and endeavoring to make it a world religion, would hardly be of any interest outside of the fact that it was the basis of one of the largest and most accepted creeds of modern times, and the creed of Zoroaster in the Avesta exist today in the main creeds of the Christian Church.

CHAPTER XII

N O R S E

The Norsemen those hardy people of Northern Europe left no written records or annals of their history, their origin or their government, what we know of this people is what others have written of them. and it is strange indeed that these people who impressed themselves so mightily upon the history of North Europe, did not take the trouble to leave a written chronicle of their mighty deeds; where ~~there~~ they originally came from we therefore have no record, it is possible that the Norse are a branch of the ^{Tuetic} ~~Tuetic~~ race, as they resemble to some extent the people of Northern Germany, but they may have been a branch of the Tartars who settled in Russia, and as there is no way to get at the truth of the matter, we must leave it as a mystery which we may never fathom.

The Norse country must have been settled at an early date in European history, and they were well advanced towards civilization before Caesar, for we know that at that time, Northern Europe was fairly well settled by a brave and a very hardy race of men; there is no doubt that at this time, the Norse men were skilled workers in metals, for all written descriptions of them tell us, they had metal utensils, weapons of war, and even the prows of their war vessels were armed with a heavy metal beak, this shows knowledge and skill in working metals, they were ^{swords} ~~armed~~ with splendid heavy ~~swords~~, battle axes, and spears, the body was protected by good armor, and they wore good helmets, and carried large heavy shields that were beautifully worked in all kinds of heraldic designs.

From the very beginning, they were a sea-faring people, and their ships made voyages to all of the Northern seas, their early vessels did not depend upon sails to any great extent, but like other early seamen, they seemed to have depended on oars for propelling their ships through the seas; there are many stories and legends connected with them, as soldiers and sailors; one of the most beautiful recounts the burial of a chieftain at sea, after death he was dressed in full armor, weapons and all, then placed aboard his ship which was towed out to sea, the vessel was saturated with pitch, and then set on fire, and the burning vessel with the dead warrior aboard, was left to drift a blazing mass of fire until all was consumed, and the warrior was supposed to go to his rest in all his glory.

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The Norse men in early days occupied Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, all of which may be classed as the Norse country, yet it may ^{be} that the Finnsaare Tartars, more related to the Russians than the Norse people; they probably did some farming, and may have known how to raise grain, fruit and vegetables, it is certain they had good herds of fine cattle, and from very early days, were well-skilled in the use of timber for construction purposes, for we find them in early days, building good ships and solid, substantial houses; from all accounts they were a tall, strong hardy race of brave warriors and seamen, we know them to have been fierce in battle, and they knew no fear of the sea for their vessels roved the stormy waters of the Northern seas for ages.

There are many strange tales and legends written about these people, one of the strangest is the Fritjiof Naga the story of the mythical hero of Norseland, it is the Odyssay of the country, and it is a very beautiful tale of a strong, strange peoples ideal of what its real typical Norse man should be.

The religion of the Norse men was their own invention entirely, it could not have originated in any other men's minds, all of its Gods its heaven, and the hereafter is an enlarged picture of the Norse man himself, and his hereafter is a continuation of the life he would like best to live on earth; the principal gods of the Norse Mythology were Odin and Thor, the hammer and the thunderbolt, and all of their other gods are like these two, either strong forces of nature, or the strongest forces in man himself, they are all ~~huge~~ ^{huge}, ~~over~~ ^{over}-powering, and ~~awe~~ ^{awe}-inspiring, as it was possible for their creators to make them.

There is no mention in Norse Mythology of hell or devils, as we know them, but they have a most beautiful heaven- one that suited their dispositions, and natures to full measure, it was called Valhalla, a grand large palace in a fine country, where all warriors congregated to eat, sing and drink at all ~~hours~~ ^{hours}, day and night, and to be waited on by a bevy of beautiful blonde damsels, one grand riot of eating, drinking, music, singing and dancing for all eternity, the lovely dream of stout fighting men of the North during all past ages.

One cannot imagine a more fitting heaven for this race of brave warriors, and it is very easy to perceive that this heaven of theirs originated in their own minds, for no other heaven could possibly be projected on their mentality; during life, there were dangerous ~~voyages~~ ^{voyages}

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desperate battles, hard-ships of every description, and when they in their vessels returned home, what was their reward, why feasting, drinking, and the companionship of beautiful maidens, ease comfort and pleasure after heartbreaking strife, and what more strange than a desire for this to continue after death, it was impossible for the Norse mind to imagine any other kind of heaven.

The invasion of Northern Europe by the Norse men was the best thing that could have happened to improve the human race, and the minds of the different peoples along the northern sea-board; the Norse men early invaded England and inter-married with the natives, which made a better, hardier and stronger race of men in England, the same thing happened in France, one part of that country being occupied by the Norse men, took their name, and became Normandy, one of the fairest, and finest provinces of that state, whose men are today noted for their sterling character, their fine physical development, and for being good, hard-working citizens, patriotic to the core, and a credit to any country.

Ireland, Scotland and Wales were all benefitted by an admixture of their blood with the Norse men, so these people certainly implanted the stamp of their strength and courage throughout all Northern Europe; this alone would have justified the existence of the Norse race, for all nations are benefitted by an addition of new blood to the natives, and in this instance, the invaded countries have invariably received the greater benefit.

The Norse Mythology did not make any impression or headway on any other of the Northern peoples, as it was exactly suitable to the Norse men only, so we do not find a trace of it in any other country; where the Norse people settled down, the fact is the Norse men seemed to have fallen under the spell of the religion in every country they invaded, and practically their own, ^{was forgotten} so today there is no trace of the Norse God, or their religion remaining to us.

This country is situated in Central Western Asia, and is a beautiful plain, it is a country famed in song and story, the most romantic country in the Orient; the history of the beginning of Arabia is mixed up with the histories of the Samaritans, Babylonians, Medes and Persians, and also the Assyrians, and all of them are so intermingled that it is impossible to separate them and to judge accurately where one ended, and the other began.

The Arabs are of the Aryan race, as all historians seem to agree on that point, but whether they were latterly a part of the Medes and Persians, or the Babylonians, or that their ancestors originally came from India and settled in Arabia proper we do not know.

Arabia cannot be classed as an ancient government or people as their history is to some extent modern, we have no clear history of Arabia, as ~~was~~ a settled kingdom, prior to the advent of Mohamet; so far as we know, the Arabian people were nomads, herdsmen, and cattle-dealers, they were not farmers, for the tribes did not settle down in any particular place long enough to form a farming community; it seems that even from early times, the government was a tribal one, each tribe or community having its own chief, either elected by the tribe, or some one of them able enough or strong enough to assert his authority, and by obtaining force ~~exercising~~ control or rule over the tribe.

It appears they were continually moving from place to place, so they could find water and grass to graze their flocks, some rapid growing fruits were planted and possibly grain was raised to fatten their cattle; the wants of the people were simple and few. The homes were tents made from felt, a large amount of fine leather was tanned and the tribes seemed to be able to get along without importations, their simple wants being supplied by their own industry; this made the tribes ~~self-sustaining~~ ^{self-sustaining} and commerce and inter-mingling with their neighbors unnecessary.

They were, and are a proud, brave race of men, handsome and manly, and possessing a rare confidence in their own ability; the Arabs do not appear to have the racial characteristics of other Asiatics, who all seem to be a part of the Phoenecian stock, but the Arabs do not resemble the Phoenecian Race in any particular way, for they seem to us more like the people of Europe than of Asia; by their nomadic tribal

lives, and by inter-marriage, they have kept their race pure, and as they are habitually a ~~xxxx~~ virtuous race of men, their blood also has remained pure, and the Arab of today is the same pure stock as their forefathers of a thousand years or more ago.

Arabia is the Eastern land of Romance where the art of story-telling reached a degree of perfection. never attained by any other people; the art of printing was unknown in the early days of Arabian romance, and there were no books published, the place of books were taken by the professional story teller, which was really ~~was~~ a profession in Arabia; the story teller made up his romances which were recited to large audiences as we would conduct a theatre performance today, he was paid by a collection, donated by his listeners who would sit spellbound day after day absorbing the story; in the course of time, these romances became classics, and finally were gathered together and published in book form, one of these books of romance is known the world over as the Arabian Nights, as pure romantic fiction, this is one of the most beautiful works ever given to us, and ~~has~~ probably caused as much real pleasure to humanity as any book of its kind every published.

The history of Arabia really begins with Mahomet, before his time they did not seem to have solidarity or settled religious ideas, they may have had a mixed religion, a sort of conglomeration of all of the Eastern dogmas, and each tribe probably had its own religion, beliefs and practices; Mahomet changed the whole religious world, and the whole course of Arabian history by his inventing the one modern religion that has captured the minds of hundreds of millions of Eastern people.

Mahomet himself was born of a lowly and very poor family, he is reported to have been some what weak physically, and a man not suited for hard manual labor; in his early years he was a camel driver, which was the only labor a delicate man could do; he finally married a rich widow some years his senior, this giving him financial independence, enabled him to devote his time to study and reflection. Mahomet now began to form his plans for making a new religion, he was wise and far-sighted and well knew the time was propitious, for all of the old creeds were dying out or were dead, there were no settled beliefs or settled religions in Central Asia, and a new religion with an Arabian back-ground, and with Arabian ideas and ideals was bound to be a success; he was wise enough to perceive that the one religion that had survived ancient times, was the Jewish which had one God only, the God Jehovah; observing this, he saw that the only sensible thing to do would be to have one god ~~only~~, for while the

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ancient religions all had numerous Gods, yet common sense shows plainly that more than one God is simply ridiculous, a duplicity of Gods really displays the very lowest depths of ignorance to which the human mind can descend; so he finally decided to imitate the Jews, and have one God only, Allah, but here is where his acute intelligence appears, he made one God only, but took very good care to make himself the prophet of God, Allah, sole creator and himself sole prophet, which would fix the minds of his followers on the worship of his own created God- Allah, in all religious matters, but he ~~being~~ sole prophet would force them to obey him in mundane affairs, thus while he created God- King of the Arabian Heaven, he at the same time, created himself ruler of the Arabians in worldly affairs.

As this was a brand new religion, it ~~fx~~ of course had to have a Bible, for Mahomet was wise enough to know that all modern religions are based on a written book, which for some strange reason, seems to make the believers think it is the only authentic religion, simple because it is based on a book, not thinking at all about how very inconsistent this is, for the fact that a religion based on a written book is usually ^{not} direct proof that it is ~~the~~ divinely inspired, but that it is really inspired by priests and clerics, for it is impossible for any person to believe that all of the Bibles written was inspired by the God that religion adores, if that was the truth of the matter, then all of the Bibles would be true, for all of each religions could claim their Bible was divinely inspired, and not one of them would dare accuse the falsity of the others, for the man who claims his own Bible is the only true God-inspired one, and that all of the others are false, is either a plain fool, or knave.

Mahomet finally wrote and published his Bible, and to our astonishment, this wise man made the foolish mistake made by all of the compilers of all the other Bibles ~~x~~ in the world, he made the supreme mistake of filling his Bible, the Koran, full of senseless miracles, the same old mistake made all over again, wise as he undoubtedly was, he had not the strength of mind to avoid that fatal error. The temptation was too strong to resist, all of the other Bibles were based on miracles, so he thought himself compelled to follow the same old ridiculous road, so he based his God and his religion on the miracles in ^{the} Koran, and in so doing cheapened and degraded the book for all sound scholars of the future, it is to be noted that the religion of Mohamet made no impression whatsoever on the minds of any educated race, or people, it was simply suited to the romantic childish minds of the Arab.

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At first Mahomet did not meet with much success, for having no books or newspapers, the teaching had to be handed on and instructed by word of mouth, and that indeed is a very slow process amongst a widely scattered people; but finally by persistence and hard work, and by the liberal use of money, the doctrine took hold of the peoples' imagination, they were ripe for a new remantic religion, ^{especially} ~~especially~~ one whose heaven exactly suited their vivid imagination, and then the creed began to be accepted and the converts rapidly increased; Mahomet now showed a burst of real genius as a religious maker and organizer, he decided to increase the converts to his religion by force, not by force of guile, or force of torture and burning, but by the force of the Sword, this shows us that at least Mahomet was not a hypocrite, he did not torture and burn people for the good of their souls, but frankly commanded them to accept Allah and Mahomet as his prophet, or be butchered; now the poor people of the East have had their experience of butchery which had been a favorite pasttime of that region, so when Mahomet threatened to slaughter all of his captives that did not instantly accept his God, himself, and his new creed, the people of the East without the slightest hesitation joined his religion in flocks and droves, for it is very easy to accept a creed with the teacher's sword at your throat, and modern people do not as a rule care for the role of religious martyr.

Is it any wonder that under this murderous threat the people of Asia accepted this new creed with alacrity? It was very easy to accept ~~an~~ any rate, for they had no creed of their own to give up, and the Koran promised them many Arabian delights in the hereafter, which their thirsty souls had craved in this life; for these reasons the rapid and wide spread growth of ^{Mahomet's} ~~Mahomet's~~ new religion is readily understood; we now observe the new creed spreading rapidly in all directions throughout Asia and preachers undertook to spread the new teaching in Africa, where it was readily accepted, and even during Mahomet's life time, his new religion had spread over the Eastern world. While Mahomet was the religious head of the Arabs, he was also the secular head, and at his death was in every sense of the word a king, when he passed away, his followers again made those old mistakes that all religionists have made since the beginning of time, they made the mistake of trying to deify him, have some astounding miracle take place and send him to heaven in a blaze of glory, of course they did this and of course they made the whole thing ridiculous, not satisfied to recall him as a wise, good virtuous man of Allah, they had to make him

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a small kind of god, as well as a man, therefore bringing him down finally from the sublime to the ridiculous.

As the converts increased, the conquest spread, until the whole of Asia Minor had fallen under the swords of the prophet, and all of the peoples had enlisted under the crescent banner of Islam, not only ~~the~~ Asia, but foreign countries fell under the yoke, even southern Spain was conquered by the Sword's of the Moors, a brave and warlike branch of the Arabs, this was the one conquest that was a benefit to the world; Spain had been misgoverned from the time of the Carthaginians. and all of the succeeding conquerers had plundered and robbed the country until it was the most turbulent country in Europe, the Moors though really civilized the land, they were good architects and builders, they built splendid cities and palaces, and even the plain people were taught better living conditions, and under the Moors Spain was pacified and ~~became~~ ^{became} for the first time in its history, peaceful, happy and prosperous.

The Moors were the first people to build hospitals for the sick and poor, and the balance of ~~the~~ Europe did not follow this splendid humanitarian project for ~~many~~ long years; they were also good astronomers, were naturally good scholars, and they did a great deal of real good in spreading sound knowledge throughout the world.

Some time after the death of Mahomet, the political and religious power which he had wielded, fell into the hands of the Turks, a cold blooded cruel tribe of Asia Minor, ^(probably) ~~probably~~ a branch of the Phoenecians whom they greatly resemble, and from that time on, the religion sinks, and becomes a thing to be feared and dreaded, the whole effort of the new power was bent towards murder, pillage and plunder; they became heartless in their cruelty, and any country that came under their control, suffered the most fiendish torture and every kind of rapine. Political and religious persecution these tyrants could invent; the Turks reached the zenith of their power in the capture of Constantinople, which had been for ages the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire, this not only gave them that City, the gateway between Europe and Asia, but it also gave them a firm foothold in the Balkan States which made the Turks the masters of Southeastern Europe, where their reign for hundreds of years was a scene of despotic murder, robbery and every sort of political and personal crime, and the world today is revolted at even the thought of the past unnatural senseless brutality of this despicable race of men.

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During the whole period of the Turks' occupancy of Constantinople and the Balkans, there has not been one single redeeming benefit they have accomplished, every move they made was wrong, brutal and cruel, and the memory of their rule will ever remain as a night-mare and blasting curse to humanity.

After five hundred years of teaching, this religion had spread all over Asia and Africa, until it became as powerful and far-reaching as any other Oriental creed; in China, India, and other countries of Asia, they number their communicants by the million, it is the same in Africa, in fact it is now the only really large religious body on that continent, as practically all of Africa, has accepted the Crescent Banner of Islam, even the Negro tribes that have been reached by Moselm teachers, have fallen under the spell of the Prophet; all religious people are fanatics, but there is something about the religion taught by Mahomet that turns its converts into maniacs, there is no reason whatever in the minds of these believers, to ~~them~~ ^{their} ~~any~~ way of thinking every other religion is vile, and falsely sacriligious, and they firmly believe it is their duty to convert or massacre the believers of all other religions, had the Turks the power all the people in the world would have to embrace their creed, or be butchered; fortunately for the world, the Turks could not make a world conquest, although ^{they} themselves believed in that possibility for a very long time, the invention of gunpowder and the rise to knowledge and political power by the European states, finally and forever put an end to thoughts of military and political control of the world by the Turkish power.

The God and religion made by Mahomet has not been of any benefit to the world, and all people would have been better off had Mohamet himself never lived; as a political power, they have been a total failure, no country they have conquered, has improved under their rule- in fact in all instances the population has always been degraded and whole peoples have disintegrated under their brutal tyranny.

The Turks and their religion should have been stamped out and destroyed by the combined forces of humanity long ago, they were a curse from the beginning of Mahomet's teaching unto this day, and to say that religion should be free, is nonsense, for no religion should be permitted to proselytize with fire and sword, and no religion should be an example for brutality and government; today this religion has very little political power, and the world will never again permit these bloody fanatics to arise to a position of world power, or anything near it, and should the Turks try once more to seize power by force of arms, and outrage humanity will wipe them off of the face of the earth.

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CHAPTER XIVA m e r i c a

What we shall endeavor to describe in this Chapter is the America of the original natives who had their government and tribal rules modes of living, and their own peculiar civilization when Columbus discovered the unknown Western Hemisphere; where the natives came from or originated, we do not know, yet there are different theories as to how they came to be living on this Western Continent.

The most easily believed is that in ancient times there was a strip of land connecting Asia with Alaska, and that men of Asia crossed on the strip to North America, and gradually spread over the whole country, this seems plausible for to some extent the native North Americans resemble some what the people of Asia, it is also possible the first immigrants came over in small vessels, and gained a foothold on the continent, this theory would very readily account for the fairly large population of this hemisphere at the time of the discovery.

Then there is the story of the lost continent of Pan, which appears to have extended from Lower California to the South Sea Islands, this is a beautiful legend, but there seems to be no proof whatever that this lost continent ever existed, except in the fact that the word "Pan" is used repeatedly throughout the western part of America; We also have the story of the lost continent of Atlantis which was supposed to have been located in the South Central Atlantic Ocean; Atlantis is historically mentioned by Plato, who claims he obtained his information from an Egyptian Monk, there are some reasons for this rumor, and it appears that lately some scientists have agreed to form an expedition to examine the South Atlantic to see if any traces can be discovered of the Lost Continent; It is supposed that Atlantis was destroyed, and sunk beneath the waves by a profound convulsion of nature which overwhelmed the land and buried the people beneath the sea.

Another story states that a small colony of the natives escaped from the dreadful cataclysm managed to reach the shores of Europe and settled in the Western part of Spain, and the Basques of Spain and Southern France may be descendants of original natives of Atlantis; this is a very interesting theory, and a splendid subject for romantic mysteries stories, but at the present time, we have no proof whatever that the Continent of Atlamtis ever existed; yet if it did exist, we

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can be certain that the native ^{population} ~~population~~ of America are descendants of the people who lived on Atlantis, that would fully account for the fact that all parts of America were inhabited when the land was discovered; we still have another theory to go on and it is the most profound theory of all; if life began spontaneously any where on this earth, it is just as easy to suppose that it began at several places in different parts of the earth, and if life started spontaneously in Central Asia, or in the Nile Valley of Egypt, there is as good a reason to believe that it also started in the Mississippi Valley in North America, or in the Amazon Valley in South America.

This theory cannot be stated as a fact, for at present we have no proof whatever, and yet it cannot be flatly denied, for we are compelled to concede that it is a possibility, and what is naturally possible cannot be blindly denied, so at this time we are faced with several theories, but no proofs, so we can all choose our own theory, and make up the story in our own minds as we may will to believe.

This finding of a large population on the American Continent does away entirely with the old Biblical tales of a sudden creation of a man by a certain God, in the light of the fact that mankind was scattered all over the globe, it is preposterous that one man was created at one time, and in one particular spot by any God; the only sane and sure belief is that man was created by nature as were all living matter, trees, plants, fish, animals, insects, microbes, and forms of living matter down to the lowest form of life seen under the microscope; again we say this is all theory only, but theories of the creation of man and the universe are far more credible than the Biblical stories of creation, which are all invariably incredible, fantastic, and beyond reason, none of them can be believed by any man who has enough mind and intelligence to do his own thinking.

When America was discovered, it was populated from the Arctic Circle to Patagonia, and while the population was not large, it was evenly scattered over the whole of North and South America; every country in America as we know it today, had some population, and some form of government; around the Arctic Circle lived the Esquimaux, who

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lived in that very cold latitude by hunting and fishing, they were of a very low order of intelligence, and lived as near to nature as any people possibly could, they had no writing, no history and may be dismissed with the statement that they were uncivilized, and to state it plainly, savages; in the Northern Part of North America, lived natives miscalled Indians, this was a finer, and far more intelligent race than the Esquimaux, in some parts of the North, they had small villages, raised crops of maize, mellons, beans, and other native vegetables, they also had wild fruits, nuts, and an abundance of meat and fish which was the principal part of their diet.

For clothing they used the skins of animals which they tanned by a natural process, they also dyed their clothing for decorative purposes, and wore feathers and shells for the same purpose.

There was not in this part of the country any religion whatsoever as we know it, the natives had some legends and fables about a future life after death, that were beautiful but vague, and reflect plainly the childlike minds of these people; their heaven was the happy hunting ground where all good Indians went after a life of bravery and duty well done for the tribe; there they enjoyed the ideal Indian Paradise, an unlimited amount of good hunting and fishing in a beautiful country with plenty of water, grass and trees, a pleasant calm happy existence with just enough exercise to keep them healthy and strong, nothing can explain the native mind better than this ideal heaven of theirs.

The Indians also considered some animals sacred, as an instance the Beaver was held sacred by most of the Northern Tribes, and the fox, wolf, bear, owl, and other beasts and birds were held sacred by different tribes, and almost all of the tribes selected some animal as a particular tribal token; some animal sacred to that particular tribe only; their God was a shadowy figure called Manitou, a good description of whom is not given in any of the Indian dialects, so we cannot describe what their real opinion of Manitou was, all that we know of Manitou was "The Great Spirit"

The natives themselves were brave warriors, handsome and upstanding men, very proud of their personal prowess, loyal and faithful to the tribe, and before the discovery, a healthy, happy people; they had no written language, therefore no history, only tradition.

and as this was handed down by word of mouth, it is in no way authentic and all that we know of their past, is tradition only.

The Northern natives did not use any of the metals, their utensils were made of stone and wood only, as were their weapons, they made bows and arrows, rude spears, stone headed clubs, and the points and knives were chipped flint; in navigation, the natives never got beyond the canoe formed from a hollow log, but in these, they were very expert in navigating the Lakes and Streams.

There is no evidence that the Western tribe knew anything of agriculture, they seem to have subsisted entirely on fish, game, nuts and wild fruits; the governments of all were alike, this was a tribal government at the head of which was a Chief usually selected by the tribe; in time of stress, councils were held, which were attended by all of the warriors, and the decisions of the Council were binding on the tribe; they had no priests, but each tribe had what was called medicine men, who were self-appointed, although the office was sometimes hereditary; these Medicine Men were supposed to intercede with Manitou, for the benefit of the tribe, to heal the sick, and make incantations for the success of the warriors in time of strife; they were usually permitted to remain in office while successful, but when they failed, they lost their office and some times their lives.

In the Southwest, there were natives entirely different; there was one branch of the race called Pueblos, who lived a communal life and who built small cities of well-constructed houses of sun-burnt brick; their laws and government was strictly communal, twelve elders were elected by the people to rule the city; all had to work, men, women and children, the men raised the crops and tended the herds, the women did the housework and gardening, also making the clothing, while the children did light tasks and made pottery; no one received wages, all goods, food and property was held in common, necessities were stored in a community storehouse, and each family could draw what they needed from the Public Magazine; this was the best and most sensible government in the Northern part of the Continent.

In the Southern Part now known as Mexico, lived an entirely different race of natives, different in almost all things from their Northern neighbors, and are known as Aztecs; the government of this country was a real empire, ruled by an hereditary emperor, who was assisted by a class of nobles; these people were good agriculturists, and

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splendid builders, especially in palaces and temples; they had no written language, so had no means for educating the people; therefore we have no history of the Astec nation.

They were sun worshippers pure and simple, and the sun was their God, but they did have a numerous priesthood as empires usually do; as they practiced human sacrifice, we may readily believe the priesthood was a hateful, cruel order, as human sacrifice breeds brutality, amongst all men who have unlimited religious authority; most that we know of Astec history, are tales of these fiendish sacrificial butcheries, when the fairest, bravest and best were sacrificed to appease the blood thirsty-ness of the vicious Priestcraft; the same old story over and over again; a depotic government, a very behighted ignorant population, a dark gloomy religion, tenaciously conducted by a fanatical evil priesthood which usually means suffering and woe to the poor people.

In Central America, there was a fine race of men with a first class civilization called the Mayans; these people two thousand years ago had reached a state of civilization as high as the Romans and Greeks of that period; their cities were buried in the dense jungles of Central America for a very long time, and have only been discovered and laid bare a short time ago.

The Mayan buildings uncovered so far, compare favorably with the best structures of Egypt, which they very much resemble; their pyramids like the Egyptian are marvels of engineering skill, and how they accomplished their difficult task is as hard for us to explain as the terrible difficulties over come by the Egyptians; they were very skillful architects, and their conceptions were not only gigantic, but their execution was marvellous; there is nothing in the Western Hemisphere that can approach these building in granduer, in perfection, construction, and the selection of materials that would defy the decay of centuries of nature's destruction.

They invented a perfect Calendar, one which is more accurate than the one we use, they had a wide knowledge of astronomy, and thoroughly understood mathematics- in fact as scientists, they compare very favorably with all other races.

In the excavations made at Chichen Itza were found some beautiful, well executed pieces of jewelry, carvings, and statuary, showing a very high degree of art and culture, in fact these people seemed to have possessed the same high qualities of the Roman and Egyptians in their engineering and building, and it is possible they even surpassed

both of them in culture and civilization.

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In religion they were sun worshippers as were the Aztecs, and they seemed also to have worshipped the serpent, which is symbolized on all of their temples, usually of an immense and hideous shape; it is certain they practiced human sacrifice, consequently they must have had the usual numerous priestcraft which was ^{probably} ~~probably~~ the same as all others of that ilk; of the Mayan government, we know next to nothing; in all probability it was an empire with an hereditary emperor, and nobles, and possibly was similar to the Aztec government.

Some writers on this subject believed the Mayans were the survivors on this hemisphere of the inhabitants of the lost continent of Atlantis. This may be so, for it is thought that the people of Atlantis had reached a very high degree of civilization, which if true, would readily account for the high state of civilization displayed by the Mayans in all of their work; there may be some good basis for this belief, for otherwise it would be very hard indeed to understand how they reached such a state of perfection on this hemisphere, where there could not possibly be any kind of model which they could imitate, so we are forced to the conclusion that there may be some truth at the bottom of the story of the lost continent of Atlantis.

The unearthing of the City of Chichen Itza does not show any evidence that the Mayans used iron, but they did use an immense amount of copper, and as it was impossible for them to have constructed their immense works without hard edged cutting tools, we are compelled to believe they had a process for tempering copper, this is a mechanical and chemical process known only to two peoples, the Mayans and the Egyptians; the resemblance between these two races is very striking indeed, they both tempered copper, built pyramids, and Obelisks, each had a good knowledge of astronomy, and had a good accurate calendar, and both of them kept their records in the figure language Hieroglyphics; this could not possibly be an accident, no two races could have developed a culture so similar without some physical contact, for the two civilizations - the Mayan and the Egyptian, are the only two on earth that bear a striking resemblance to each other, so we must ask, did the Egyptians receive their knowledge and culture from the Mayans, or was it the other way about, it is also to be noted that the sun was the principal object worshipped in both countries; this striking similarity in all things, also forces us to believe that there was in ancient times

some direct contact between these two peoples, for one cannot imagine any other way that this strange resemblance could possibly have occurred.

For what length of time the Mayan people inhabited Central America, we do not know, but further excavations and research may in the future throw more light on this lost civilization, and give us an authentic history of the beginning and end of this splendid race, the most cultured and advanced on the American Continent; the Mayan government and its population came to an end suddenly, and historians do not know what terrible catastrophe caused the destruction, it may have been a sudden devastating military invasion by the Aztecs, or a very fatal epidemic may have swept through the country, destroying almost all human life, and so terrifying the few survivors that they fled in blind panic, became fugitives, lost their identity, and today survive as a very ignorant tribe of Central American natives.

Of the North American Continent it will be noted that the natives of the Northern part were the most ignorant, and the further south the people were, the more enlightened they became, until they reached the high state of culture and intelligence displayed in the very advanced stage of civilization of the Mayan Empire.

Of the people and natives of South America, not much can be written, for there is hardly any history extant of any part of the continent, except the story of Peru; this was the one country that had an imperic government, a distinct citizenship, and a civilization ~~in~~ very similar to the Aztecs of Mexico, and the Mayans of Central America; as a matter of fact these three governments resemble each other in almost every particular; they were empires with an hereditary emperor, and a ruling class of nobles, in religion they were sun worshippers, each had an official priesthood, and they all practiced human sacrifice; all of these three peoples were good architects and builders and they all showed a fine degree of advance in art and science; the Peruvians were the least advanced of the three in art, science, architecture, and in the every day affairs of life; the Peruvians seemed to have been a quiet, contented, happy people, fairly well governed, and fairly well supplied with most of the necessities of life at the time of the conquest of Peru by Pizarro.

The reason for the conquest of Mexico by Cortez, and the conquest of Peru by Pizarro, was greed; these two countries were reputed to be very wealthy; the natives possessing gold in abundance

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so Cortez with his army and priests invaded Mexico with dire results to the natives who had to face the invading Spaniards, armed with steel and fire arms, which were weapons unknown to the natives, and could meet this only with their crude, almost useless weapons, which could have no effect against mounted men incased in armor, the result could not be doubtful, on the one hand, the natives had the choice of handing over their gold, or being butchered, or on the other hand, of joining the Catholic Church, or being burnt; this shows plainly the reason why Mexico became poverty stricken, and at the same time, predominantly Catholic, for they early learned the lesson that in order to save their lives and property, the only chance was to be converted, and so in fear and trembling, they became good Catholics, yet in spite of this hard method of conversion, there is a vast amount of paganism and Astec religious beliefs mixed up with the Catholic worship in Mexico.

The conquest of Peru by Pizarro, was far more ~~bloody~~, vicious, bloody and cruel than was the conquest of Mexico by Cortez; Pizarro lacked some of the good qualities of Cortez, who was a far-sighted man, and had some notions of politics and statemenship, while on the contrary Pizarro did not possess one redeeming human trait, he was mean, viciously cruel, a contemptible liar, and avariciously acquisitively to the bone, and was without doubt one of the most heartless evil villains that basely degraded the very name of Christian on this continent; his invasion of Peru was solely for plunder, with his rapacious soldiers, and his cunning vicious priests he captured the country, and then proceeded to put all of the natives to the torture, his brutal soldiers wrung the last ounce of gold from the cowed natives, while his priests gave them their choice of being converted to the Catholic faith, or being burnt at the stake; is it any wonder that the natives of Peru became at once good Catholics? With the same opportunity, Mahomet could have made them good Mahometans or Hannibal could have turned them into good worshippers of Bal.

There are no more disgraceful episodes in history than the American conquest of the Spaniards; the whole mess reeks with blood, plunder, and heartless cruelty, and back of all this, stood the cold faced heartless fanatical priests, backing the soldiers in their brutality, and claiming in smug hypocrisy that they were trying to save the souls of the benighted natives; could hypocrisy, falsehood and deceit reach any lower depth than this?

From Mexico to the end of the South American Continent, the conquest of the natives was a lasting disgrace to civilization and a foul stench in the nostrils of all decent men; fortunately for the world, the Spanish Dominion did not remain permanent; when the Southern natives gained sufficient strength, they immediately threw off the Spanish yoke in government, and the Catholic Church in both political and spiritual affairs, for we must note that the Catholic Church tried to dominate both, and in Mexico in particular, the Government has practically abolished the Catholic Church, even in religious matters.

All of the past governments of America, and all of its gods, religions, and even its civilizations, are a thing of the past, all or most of them, were destroyed by the conquering greed of the meek, mild, humanity loving brotherly Christians of Europe.