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about
105000 words

GODS AND RELIGIONS.

BY
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DEDICATION

TO THOSE FIRST TEACHERS OF THE LIGHT
PYTHAGORAS, THALES, ARCHIMEDES, EUCLID
AND PLATO,
AND TO THOSE MODERN INTELLECTUAL
GIANTS COPERNICUS, KEPLER, GALILEO,
NEWTON, DARWIN, LA PLACE, AND PASTEUR
WHO OPENED OUR MINDS TO ALL USEFUL
KNOWLEDGE WE BOW IN HUMBLE
GRATITUDE AND WITH PROFOUND
APPRECIATION DEDICATE THIS WORK, TO
THEM.

THE AUTHOR.

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PREFACE.

THIS ICONOCLASTIC BOOK WAS WRITTEN FOR
MEN AND WOMEN WHO THINK AND REASON
FOR THEMSELVES AND MAY APPRECIATE
A STUDY IN FACTS.

CLERGYMEN AND LAYMEMBERS OF CHURCHES
ARE RESPECTFULLY ADVISED NOT TO READ
THIS WORK AS IT CONTAINS NOTHING
USEFUL FOR THEIR WAY OF THINKING.

ALL CRITICISMS OF THIS BOOK SHOULD
BE MADE IN THE PUBLIC PRESS, MAGAZINES,
OR PAMPHLETS. AS ALL PERSONAL
CRITICISMS WILL BE IGNORED.

TO ANY PERSON INQUIRING FOR MORE LIGHT
ON ANY SUBJECT IN THIS WORK THE
MOST RESPECTFUL COURTESY WILL BE
SHOWN.

H.A. DEPREZ.

CHAPTER I

In Principio.

The most profound problem that has engaged the mind of mankind since conscious thought was developed in the human brain is; how this earth of ours was created, formed or made; whether the result of natural causes. or was created by a supreme being, by word, command or will.

Two extremely divergent theories have been taught us, each endeavoring to explain how the earth, and life upon it came into existence; one thought having been taught for ages, the other being the deep studies during the past 300 years of science and modern philosophy, and embracing the knowledge acquired in chemistry, geology, physics and astronomy.

The stories or tales that have been taught for a long period of time. or the religions, or the Bible stories of the Creation of the world, by a God or Gods, these stories being handed down from generation to generation by word of mouth, or are embodied in so-called sacred books or bibles.

All races, tribes and peoples have created their own Gods, and all Gods created by man have been a counter-part of the race or people who created them.

It can be stated as a fact that no man can imagine a God, he can only imagine what he knows, and as he only knows man, his God must be a greatly enlarged man, having greater power than man, but with all man's faults and frailties developed in a high degree.

The stories of the creation of the world by man-made Gods in all the written work of religions are similar. All the creation being done by miracles. The God or Gods bringing something into existence that did not exist before, in other words creating something out of nothing.

The best known example ~~known~~ of a written, or Bible Creation, is that contained in the Jewish Bible or old Testament, which is the foundation or back-bone of the Christian Religions.

This story purports to be the actual facts of what took place ^{one} some 6000 years ago by the Jewish God- Jehovah, and as this story is on a line with all other books, or revealed stories of creation, it will suffice to give a brief account of this ^{story} in the Old Testament.

The story of the Creation in the Jewish Christian Bible is contained in the first Chapter of Genesis, and begins as follows- "In the Beginning."

We pause to ask: In the beginning of What? In the beginning of time? In the beginning of matter? In the beginning of the Universe?

In the beginning of the actual creation of this earth? Was time itself then created? ~~Did nothing whatever exist before the ?~~ Did nothing whatever exist before the "In the beginning." save and except Jehovah himself? Certainly Jehovah being God must have existed before the "Beginning" and for countless ages must have existed in a void. Can anyone imagine a God doing nothing for a great number of millions of years? Who wrote that opening line of Genesis, and who told him the facts of creation? There was nothing existing before the creation; no living thing- no earth, no writing, no way of handing down the facts of the matter for future generations of men; then how in the name of common sense could the writer state facts of which he could not possibly know anything.

The next part of the sentence goes on "God created the heavens and the earth." The writer who knows all about the facts, does not even know where heaven is; in what direction, or how deep in space.

According to this statement neither heaven nor its inhabitants the angels existed before this stated period, consequently Jehovah must have created the angles when he created heaven, for the angels must have had a place of abode, and the only place that could possibly be, was heaven. We are led to believe from ^{this} ~~the~~ reasoning that Jehovah created men and the angels at about the same period. If that is the case, one wonders why Jehovah did not make men and angels all alike. It could have been as easy for Jehovah to make a sinless man as a sinless angel? Having made the heaven and angels, Jehovah then created the earth, and the sentence goes on to state "And the earth was without form and void."

Now let us see if we can find any meaning in that statement "Without form and void." must mean nothing whatsoever existed and even the space the earth occupies was void, even if space itself existed.

We next find "And darkness was upon the face of the deep." Certainly darkness was everywhere, but where was the deep? What is the meaning of the deep in this line. Does it mean the depth of the sea? It certainly cannot mean that, for the sea itself did not exist. So what that word "deep" means, Jehovah himself must explain.

We continue with "And the spirit of God moved upon the face of of the waters." This is a plain contradiction of facts already shown in the beginning of the sentence, for if the face of God was upon the waters then water undoubtedly existed before the creation, and as water is matter, made by a combination of atoms, then matter in the shape of atoms must have been in existence before the creation. If the statement "The spirit of God was upon the face of the waters is correct, then the ^s statement

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that the "earth was without form and void" is certainly incorrect. Let us pause a moment and ask where were these waters located? The earth was without form and void, then what could contain the waters - was the waters merely floating around in space, or was all space a dense mass of water. One statement says everything was void - that nothing existed, and another statement contradicts that by saying there was an abundance of water; hard indeed to reconcile those statements of facts.

To continue "And God said let there be light, and there was light. According to that expression, the light created by Jehovah was something entirely different from sun-light, for he created the sun after he created light, and we must ask what could that light have been? We understand the making of modern light - Electric - gas, coal oil, candles and others, but we cannot possibly imagine what new kind of light Jehovah created; After he made the light, he made the sun - either one of which was not necessary, and further on it says Jehovah created the moon and stars to light the darkness of night: a very poor arrangement, for the stars give very little light, and the moon ~~was~~ is almost useless unless at the full or near it. And on cloudy nights it is a total failure. Man has done better in inventing electricity, for by the turning ^{of} a switch we obtain an abundance of good dependable light., which neither season or weather effects. Man made a far better job of ~~xxx~~ lighting the night than Jehovah did. According to the way of our reading the scriptures, Jehovah created two different kinds of light, during his act of creation.

This story of the creation contained in Genesis, is on a par with all creation stories. It is a mess of absurd contradictions, and is so lacking in sense that it seems the effort of an imbecile. That whole first paragraph of Genesis could not be sensibly ~~xxx~~ explained by the ^{most} talented philosopher living, for the simple reason that positively no sense can be made of it. The rest of the Genesis story of creation is simply one joke after another, each more silly and unbelievable than the other - mere fairy tales from vivid imaginations. This impossible hodgepodge was written by religious men, priest, prophets and soothsayers for their own particular purposes; a great many of whom must have participated in its construction. and furthermore there is not the slightest evidence that any great ruler, king or teacher had anything whatever to do with the writing of Genesis; it has the earmarks of having been put together entirely by priests, scribes or clerics, and it can be safely added for their own profit and benefit. All religious histories of the creation were written by priest or clerics; all are based upon miracles, and not one of them are upheld, by science. knowledge or history.

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Religion is the one great business in the world based on faith alone- on faith which means men are expected to believe the most impossible tales, stories, myths, contradictions^{and} falsehoods without the backing of sense facts, or reason, and people are mercilessly condemned by clergies for daring to criticise the absurd, ridiculous nonsense in the Bibles; Another thought beats on the mind; a thought that seems fantastic, absurd and somewhat ridiculous, and yet it keeps on tapping on the dome of the mind, insisting upon being answered; and that thought is, Who made hell, and the devils.

According to Genesis the devils existed before man, for after Adam was created, and placed in the Garden of Eden, the devil entered thereto and tempted Eve. Therefore Satan must have been in being before man, and as hell is the only home or abode of devils, hell must have been created before or at the same time as the earth. That being the case, why did Jehovah create Satan or his imps, and hell itself.?

Did Jehovah create hell, knowing in advance that man would fall and be condemned to hell, and did he create hell for that express purpose? Under the circumstances, why did he create man at all.; and if the creation of man was necessary, why did he not create a man who could not sin and fall? He certainly had the power to do so, for he created angels who cannot sin. Therefore it was unfair and unjust for Jehovah to create a hell, and then to create man who would sin and fall and be condemned to hell for all eternity. No matter how you look at it, Jehovah made a botch of the whole business- it seems like he did it out of sheer meanness and vindictive cruelty? It is far easier to believe that Satan created hell and then created man to sin and to go to hell than to believe a God did it.

It may be said in answer to this, that Jehovah did not create hell. If Jehovah did not create it, who did? Can it be said that Satan created hell? If that is so, then Satan is as powerful as Jehovah, for if Satan could create, he must be a God. The only difference between the Creator and the creature is, that the creature cannot create. So if Satan created hell and his devils, then we have two Gods- one good and one evil. If that is so, Satan is the more powerful of the two, for the reason that God cannot protect his own children made in his own image, from the torment and punishment of Satan; one is led to believe from that, that God is very weak, nor has no great love for his creatures he created. That is about the sum and substance of the stories of the Creation of the world according to the religious or Bible stories of creation.

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The other or modern explanation of the making or forming of this earth by natural processes has been before the public for possibly 300 years; it began at the dawning of real knowledge about the latter part of the 17th Century.

About that period of time, men of deep thought, clear ideas and the courage of certain knowledge began ~~to~~ to give some new ideas of the world. New at that time, but what was fairly well known and taught by the ancient Greek Philosophers.

The new ideas given to the world by Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, and Sir Isaac Newton, changed the whole trend of modern thought. The first sensible, believable explanation of how this world of ours was made, was given to the world in the latter part of the 18th Century by La Place a well known Mathematician of France. La Place gave this solution of a great world problem in a pamphlet called the Nebular Hypotheses. This was the first time ~~for~~ in the world's history that an explanation as to how the earth was formed, was given in such a manner that all thinking men could accept it at once, as a reasonable, logical event., that did not stretch the imagination. Nor did one have to accept it on faith. There was no faith embodied in La Place's explanation. It was all based on natural law and natural forces. This was the first instance where Gods were left entirely out of the picture, and reason and sense took their place. For over 100 years La Place's Hypotheses was accepted by all astronomers and Physicists as the last word in describing how this earth came into being.

Any school-boy can study the La Place Hypotheses, so it is not necessary to give it all here. As a matter of fact the average man cannot readily give it, unless some time and study are exercised on the subject. To give a simple resume of the matter; According to the Hypotheses about 7.5 billion years ago. all the matter within our solar system was a ^{part} of the sun. All of the planets, moons, satellites, meteors, comets were ^{with} massed in this the central body- the sun. The sun a vast mass of incandescent gas was travelling through space at a terrible speed. As this large mass hurled through space, whirled on its own axis, it gradually accelerated its speed until gravity took possession. This caused a portion of the sun to begin to extend beyond the ~~parent~~ body until a large part of the sun in a spiral motion began to extend itself beyond the main body. Until probably one-eighth of the sun's mass extended for millions ^{of} miles from the ^{main} body. In the course of time, and through centrifugal force, this mass became separated from the main body, was hurled through space, and the new mass being separated into several large in-

independent masses, became the planets which continuing the rotatory motion, began their orbits around the parent body - the sun; and the planet^s in the course of time formed ~~xxx~~ ^{their} path around the sun, held by the sun's strong gravitational pull.

After countless ages these planets by their circular motion became round balls or globes which we readily perceive now in our modern telescopes. We may say here that the moons, companions of the planets were born of the planets in precisely the same manner. That in substance is the Nebular Hypotheses of La Place, and up until about 25 years ago was agreed upon by all astronomers as the correct explanation of how this world of ours came into being somewhere within three billion years ago.

During the past 30 years the knowledge gained in the study of physics and astronomy has increased by leaps and bounds. Improved instruments, and an intense study of the atom and the composition of world matter and natural laws, has enabled world ^{scholars} ~~sciences~~ to form new and important ideas of the universe and its construction. About 25 years ago, a new theory was placed before the world that completely upset the Nebular Hypothesis, and is now conceded by astronomers to be the real explanation as to how the earth was made. It is now justly claimed that the earth was formed by what is now known as gravitational Instability, and while it supersedes the Nebular Hypotheses of La Place, it in no way decreases the importance of the La Place discovery - in fact by the new theory of gravitational instability, La Place's Nebular Hypothesis is found to be a far grander discovery than even La Place claimed it to be; for La Place claimed that the Nebular Hypothesis was a true explanation of how our solar system was formed; while as a matter of fact it explains how the whole of our ^{universe} ~~universe~~ was made. therefore we may say that La Place's Nebular Hypotheses is the grandest conception in astronomy and physics the world of science has ever had placed before it. The new theory of gravitational instability is now conceded to be the true explanation of how our solar system was formed; it can only be briefly explained here in an unscientific way, as this is not a work on astronomy, and a layman must be brief; a fuller knowledge can be gained on this subject by consulting any Library.

The explanation is that about three billion years ago, our sun which then contained all the matter within our solar system was a solitary body travelling through space; at about that period another sun began to approach ours, and in course of time it came so close to our sun that gravitational pull began to work upon the two as they approached nearer and nearer.

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It is certain that the approaching sun was the larger and had a great ^{shape} gravitational pull, consequently it had the effect of changing the sun's shape. The gravitational pull of the approaching sun ^{finally} began to draw out a large section of our sun from its center, this large mass- probably an eighth of the total, finally extended in an elongated body, millions of miles from the parent body. As this mass gradually extended, it became smaller and somewhat thin where joined to the sun and finally broke away from the sun entirely and whirled into space. When that occurred, the gravitational pull was working on the new mass by both suns, which caused the new mass to separate into several independent bodies which in turn became the planets.

This is a process easily understood and explained; the parent sun by Gravitational pull would prevent the planets from flying off into space, while the approaching sun by its pull would prevent the planets from being drawn back into our sun by its pull.

By the ^{gravitational} ~~gravitational~~ pull of both suns, the planets were guided into their orbits and gradually became spheres which revolved around our sun to finally become the beautiful solar system we all know.

The Nebular Hypothesis of La Place shows how our Universe was created. La Place's theory explains that fully, and we have an example of that Hypothesis in the spiral Nebular Andromeda. which without doubt is a new Universe being brought into existence by the law of the Nebular Hypothesis. X Thus we give the two theories of the making of this world of ours, the one religious, relying on faith, the other scientific, relying on facts and knowledge. Our ability to think and reason, permits all men to decide for themselves whichever theory they choose to believe. Those who have been drilled in religion since childhood, will probably continue to believe the Bible stories of the Creation; but new generations who have presumed to do their own thinking, will in all probability accept the scientific explanation as to how this world was formed.

Modern life and modern intelligence demands facts, logic, and common sense. Men refuse to believe almost impossible statements made by clerics simply because the cleric states they are facts. Any facts stated as a positive truth, must be provable. It is not enough to say one must believe, but a good reason must be given why one should believe.

This about covers ^{the ground} regarding the beginning; for there must have been a beginning- the only question is, how did the beginning begin.

All students of world matters, can form their own opinion as to which of those theories are correct. Which appeals most to common sense and logic, and which one is the more easily proved by what knowledge the

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world has gained by the past three hundred years(300) of intense study and research.

CHAPTER II

Life

How life started on this earth is almost as vitally important as the question of ~~the~~ the beginning of the earth itself; Again we face two theories explaining this vast problem, which are ^{as} wide apart; as the subject in the preceding Chapter. These two theories are religious and scientific;

The religious viewpoint is that life on this earth was created by a God- by His word or command.

Again we are confronted by a man-made God; creating all life, human, animal. bird, insect and fish by a miraculous act. These stories of all natural gods creating life, are similar. The wording may be different, the localities far apart, but in all instances living life was created at once by the God of that country, who begins life on the planet by making something out of nothing and implanting the spark of life in that something.

Any creation by a God is a miracle; it cannot be anything else, as for instance a God takes a piece of clay, forms it into the likeness of a man, and breathes life into it - that is simply and plainly a miracle.

If one examines the histories of the ancient world. Egypt, Babylon and other nations, it will be found that all of them had their own explanation of how life was created by their own particular God, in his own way, and in their own Country.

To elaborate upon this subject alone would be far beyond the scope of this work; it would take a large volume to give anything like a full account of all written stories of creation of life on this little earth.

It will suffice to confine this work to one well known book on this subject, probably the widest known book on this ^{matter} in the whole world. We will confine our description of a world-filled with life created by a God, by referring to the Jewish history, known by Christians as the Old Testament, and accepted by them as the real, believable facts of the Creation of life on this earth.

life.

The story of the creation of, as the creation of the earth, is contained in Genesis, and sets out that Jehovah after creating the earth, seas, sun, moon and stars, simply by command, created a sea full of living fish of all kind, including whales, and probably octopus, sharks and other sea scavengers. Then Jehovah rests a day, but goes on creating life, making living birds and insects, and finally forming all animals, setting them

up already living and breathing.

We pause now to wonder why in creating insects, he created bed-bugs, lice, mosquitoes, crabs, cock-raoches, ants, boll weevil, scorpions, centipedes, and such friends of man as microbes of yellow fever, small-pox diphtheria, consumption. ~~xxx~~ and all ^{of their} other ~~death-dealing~~ death-dealing brethren;

It is also passing strange that ~~he~~ he created the rattlesnake, cobra, fer de lance, and a thousand other deadly poisonous enemies of man.

Creating hell and the devils to torment man, was a terrible trick for Jehovah to play on mankind, but a still deadlier and meaner act of his ^{was} in filling this world he created for man, full of deadly animals, poisonous snakes, stinging insects, hundreds of death-dealing germs, and every kind of poison imaginable; he not only makes a hell to roast in after death. but fills his whole path through life with every conceivable torture the mind can imagine.

Why did Jehovah create conditions for man, which on the face of them, seems the creation of a lunatic? Now we come to the creation of man himself, and the Book simply states Jehovah made man to his own image, just that and no more- to his own image mind you, and one can see chimpanzees, and monkeys as goodlooking as some of the men we meet; If Jehovah made man to his own image, then Jehovah must be a sorry sight if he resembles most men; Then the story goes on nonchalantly to say that Jehovah took a rib out of Adam and turned it into a woman. Why a rib, why not a hair of his head, or a part of his toe-nail, or he could just as well take a tad-pole and turned it into a woman.

One often wonders what women think of this story. Are women of such minor importance that they brought forward upon the scene of life in such an insignificant manner?

Jehovah takes the attitude that women were not ^{be} of the slightest importance- in fact they were an afterthought- almost seems to ^{have} forgotten them entirely; Lucky for man that Jehovah did not entirely forget to make ~~him~~ a woman; Another question hard to answer is, why did Jehovah create the warth and man in the first place; to what purpose? It is very hard to go through this life with all its suffering and final death, and be able to understand a reason for it; eighty per cent of the people who have been born into life would have been ^{far} better off, if they had never been born at all; on top of that, according to Christian doctrine, the vast majority of the people born into this world are going to hell, ^{of} so why bring all these poor people into this world and then fill hell to the brim with souls to suffer the torments of the devil through all eternity.

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One wonders if Jehovah and the angels rejoice when they see hell jammed full of suffering souls, does it not seem that Jehovah would some time repent, and close hell entirely, and at the same time pardoning poor, weak suffering sinners?

It is very, very easy to sin, consequently very, very easy to go to hell. Jehovah should have made it very easy to get to Heaven, and extremely difficult to go to hell; but for some unaccountable reason he reversed the matter, and gave mankind the most horrible deal one can imagine - in fact mankind must have been made expressly to please the devil.

Let us suppose for a moment that the devil created earth and mankind, could he, or would he have done any worse ~~job~~ at the job than Jehovah? He would have made man to suffer; filled the world with every conceivable enemy of man, and at man's death gleefully throw him into hell. Well, Jehovah did just that, could Satan do any more harm to man than Jehovah has done?

Perhaps Satan would not have been quite so mean. He may in irony have given man a nice pleasant happy life in this world, and then throw him into hell after his death; but Jehovah gave man hell during life, and after death likewise. In sober truth it is hard to imagine any God or demon giving man a worse deal than Jehovah gave to us suffering mortals; Would it not have been grand if all man had been created Archangels? The whole realm of the universe full of rejoicing angels, and would not ~~satan~~ have been put into a violent rage if all were angels, and hell was empty? It looks like that would have been the best manner possible to punish satan; Create him a magnificent hell to play with, and not a single soul to seize and torture. In that case the joke would have been on Satan; as it is the joke is on poor man, and Satan can chuckle and laugh to his heart's content.

After reflecting upon this matter, one pauses to think what must be satan's opinion of Jehovah, he must certainly know that Jehovah is not a friend of man - in fact that Jehovah hates mankind, and if satan knows and believes that, then he must be assured that Jehovah is almost-certainly a good friend of his. for all the way through Jehovah has certainly given satan the best of the bargain. If the average man of this world could create, it is positive that there is one thing he would not create under any circumstance, and that is a devil.

The other theory of life starting on this planet, is the scientific theory, which endeavors to show that life started ~~from~~ ⁱⁿ a very natural manner, beginning very small, gradually growing larger and finer through the natural process known now as evolution.

It seems like evolution, not only explains the starting of

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life on this planet, and its continuous advances to something better;
But it seems to explain the very forming of ^{the} planet it self. Examine the formation of this planet ~~xxxxif~~, and then examine the process of the forming of life on it, and one will be struck by the similarity of the ^{two} processes. How the spark of life really began, mortal man may never know, and yet so rapid is the advance in Chemistry, that even that great secret may be wrung from Mother Nature; It has been suggested that perhaps the spark of life came to this planet from another planet, or sun, that it may have travelled through space in a meteor and finally reached the earth in that manner. While there is a remote chance that this may have happened, yet the objections to it are so deep and profound that it is very hard indeed to believe that the spark of life could have reached us from without. One good reason against that theory, is this; in travelling through space to reach this planet, from no matter where, the spark of life would have to travel a long way through a cold of absolute zero. It is very doubtful if any life could travel through that deadly degree of cold and retain a spark of life. Only one possible way this could happen, should an extremely large meteor with a spark of life within the center of it collide with the earth, and by the collision burst into fragments, then the spark of life might have escaped destruction and mingled with the earth. That solution is ^{only} pure theory. It supposes that there is life on other planets, and that life exists throughout the entire universe.

While it is impossible to say ~~that~~ for a certainty that life exists on other planets of our solar system, it is a certainty to say that life exists in the universe, that ours is not the only planet in the universe with life upon it. Reason compels us to assert that there are thousands or more like ours upon which there is life. There are ~~so~~ many billions of suns like ours, such an immense amount of matter in our universe, and in ^{island} the ~~thousands~~ universes, that it would be folly to say it is all waste matter.

On this earth of ours, nature proves to us that nothing is wasted, then why the utter folly of saying the whole universe is a dreary waste. If that was so, then the creation of the universe made billions of ^{suns as} waste matter for no purpose whatsoever.

Can any sensible man believe in this gigantic waste? Billions of suns created to do nothing - but whirl through space for billions of years, and then grow cold and die; It can't be admitted for one moment that nature is so wasteful; The same conditions that made our solar systems, ~~must~~ have happened to ~~a~~ thousands of suns in the past ten billion years. It can then

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be stated as a matter of belief that life exists throughout the universe and it may be that life started on thousands of planets as it started on ours. That man was suddenly created by a supreme being is utterly beyond belief. No good reason can be given for such a belief, and objections to that ~~theory~~ are numerous, and conclusive. One objection to that theory will be as good as a large number of them, so only one objection will be given here.

In the rock formation of the earth, geologists have found the skeletons of cockroaches which have lain in that rock formation for millions of years. This is authentic, for the science of geology enables its devotees to estimate the age of materials, of earth construction to ~~be~~ a certainty - that is a remote certainty.

Now it cannot be admitted that the supreme being created the cock-roach one billion or even one million years ago, let it inhabit the earth for several million years, and then suddenly decided to create man. That is ~~a~~ beyond all reason and sense. Besides more than one kind of insects is found in the rock formation of the earth, which undoubtedly proves that numerous insects existed in that remote period. For what purpose could the creator create those insects hundreds of thousands of years prior to the creation of man, of what benefit to the coming man, could, or would those insects be? That is too fantastic to be admitted. The mind rebels against anything so unreasonable. If the creator really created them, it must be admitted that all life was created at ^{once} and over a short period of time; but if the ^{material} ~~structure~~ of the earth itself, refutes that idea, then we must surely abandon it. Therefore we are compelled to state once and for all, that life was not created at once and by a supreme being. But surely there must have been a start. Existing life itself proves that, and as the two ideas embodied above, does not give us a believable or sensible idea how life actually did start, we are forced to use our minds, and reason to see if we cannot give a reasonable and logical explanation which ^{the} average mind can accept as to how life really began.

The earth formed by ^{Gravitational} ~~Gravitational~~ Instability about three billions years ago was in a gaseous state for possibly, billion years or more. It gradually began to cool off, and as it cooled off, it certainly condensed, and in the ^{condensation,} ~~condensation,~~ matter began to form. Probably the first matter made was water. Two atoms of hydrogen coming into contact with one atom of oxygen formed a molecule of water; ^{One molecule of water} being formed, others would start forming at once, and we have the making of water increasing rapidly. in a ~~perfect~~

perfectly natural manner; At the same time, we can imagine the formation of air, atoms of oxygen, meeting with the proper number of atoms of nitrogen, we have the forming of molecules of air. After the formation of these two principal and necessary parts of the earth, every conceivable formation was possible; As we now know that all matter in the universe is simply a combination of atoms. When water and air were formed, the whole surface of the earth would change, the water being drawn into the air would be by the terrific heat be changed into vapor, which condensing would return to the earth in rain. This would generate violent storms, which would make more water, which in turn would make more air, and we can visualize all the new elements of the earth in violent commotion; which would result in the intermingling of more kinds of atoms, creating more kinds of matter. Thus nature itself would create matter; and every new kind of matter created would necessarily create new kinds of matter, which not only pertains to matter, but life itself. We can now imagine matter being formed by great convulsion of nature, of fearful storms, tornadoes, and finally internal disturbances within the earth, for as the waters increase, the surface of the earth would cool more rapidly, thereby contracting the whole earth, which would cause great commotion within the earth's center, the result being tremendous earthquakes and vital and immense changes on the earth's surface. This in all possibility caused the formation of the earth's crust; rocks began to appear on the surface, causing a dividing of the waters, until the shape of continents began to raise out of the turbelent waters; Once the division of water and land was made, the whole world would take on a new nature. The heavy rains falling would cause heavy torrents to be formed on the earth's surface, which would in time result in conjunction with the terrible heat cause the rocks to be ground up and pulverized, which in time would settle along the stream and shores to form the beginning of land matter.

In these convulsions of nature we can imagine all kinds of matter being formed within the earth, Diamonds, gold, silver, metals, crystals, aluminum and even some of the different clays would have been made with the earth, and It is certain that within the latter period coal and petroleum were formed in this natural manner.

We now find the earth rotating around the sun in its regular orbit, water covering the major parts of the earth, the envelope of air encircling the globe, seas and islands formed, and clays and soils beginning to appear. When this condition had lasted for a long period of time, the earth would be ready to contain some form of life; The question now

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is; how could life have started, we are sure that the cockroach lived a million years ago, and from evidence we have, the cockroach must have been a product of natural creation. If that is admitted, then the whole question of life is explained; for it is as easy for nature to create an elephant as a cockroach, the size of the thing created, is no criterion, for if we once admit that nature creates, then we must admit that all life was created in a natural manner.

We now arrive at a ^{period} ~~point~~ of time when the earth is in a condition to sustain life, the air, seas, and land is formed, and gradually along the sea shores and water courses, ooze begins to form; and imagine that at that time the chemical parts of the earth were simple, strong and violent. Let us say that in this strong ooze in the hot sun and steam, different atoms came together which formed an entirely new combination of matter which being welded together was imbued with a spark of life by the hot life-giving rays of the sun, setting the spark of life in a very small Amoeba; that would be a start of life-matter on the earth, and ^{if} we believe that this was the real start, then we can readily believe that all living matter was created in this manner. There is no good reason to doubt that life started in this way, for if nature was powerful enough to create the whole universe and could then form our ~~great~~ majestic solar system, surely it had power enough to create life in a small Amoeba; this we repeat would explain the beginning of all life, for after the beginning of life in one set of Amoeba, others would form by combination. And combinations of Amoeba, would form protoplasm, which combining would form other matter, and a natural change of living matter would form new combinations of living matter indefinitely, and this in itself would account ^{for} the ^{incredible} vast numbers and varieties of living creatures, insects, fishes, birds, reptiles, mammals and last of all man.

X The only thing necessary to start life on this earth, was the one small spark of life started, for after the small spark was once aflame, all varieties of life could spring from the first small spark. Almost the same could be said of the universe, for it was not necessary for the creator to create the whole universe at once. The only thing necessary for the creator to create would have been to create the ninety-two different kinds of atoms in the universe. Having created the atoms only, the atoms themselves alone would have made the universe in the course of time. Therefore, we can state the atoms created the universe, the solar system, and finally life upon the earth. This is the only explanation that appears reasonable to the average man. This is based on geology, physics and chemistry, and metaphysics, and miracles

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are left entirely out of the picture. In the explanation of the making of the universe, the forming of the solar system and the addition of the ^{start} of life on the earth, a supreme being is left out- not being considered necessary, for either one or the other of the theories only are necessary; and to endeavor to combine the two would only make matters worse. For if the supreme being needed natures to assist him, he is not the all-powerful creator, and if nature could start alone any of the processes of forming, making, ^{or} creating, then a supreme being was not necessary.

We are compelled to affirm that life started on this earth by a process of spontaneous creative atomic amalgamation. This is the only explanation that seems to be based on facts, or reason, and the only one that can appeal to the mind of the average man, as the one theory that is based entirely upon nature; for if we reflect upon the matter, we perceive nature itself is so powerful that man readily accepts any tremendous work of nature without considering it miraculous, or in any way whatsoever hard to believe. What causes man's mind to instantly revolt, is to hear of some event that on the face of it seems unnatural. At once he tries to reason the matter out in his own mind, and if after mature reflection, it seems absurd, his mind automatically rejects it; for the human mind cannot be forced to believe. And if a man forces his mind to believe something miraculous, he is only fooling himself, and forces his own mind to remain ignorant. ^X We all remain ignorant until we realize how densely ignorant we are, and it takes a man a long time to acknowledge to himself how very little he knows. It stands to reason that man can learn but a very small fraction of knowledge in our very short span of life, considering how many learned professions, arts and labors there are in the world. And as a rule it takes a man a whole life time of study, and effort to learn one profession, and after he learns all he can about his one profession, he is usually very ignorant of the other professions. It takes a life time of intense study to make a good surgeon, but that surgeon could not navigate a ship, or build a brick, ^{arch} and so we may repeat the individual man is very ignorant; but men ⁱⁿ the mass, have intelligence. So the individual man himself, in his own mind, must think his own way, through this world. His own reason and logic must guide him if he earnestly desires to know the why of this world- what is the first cause; how the earth came into existence; for human curiosity will exist in the mind of man until the end of man's sojourn on earth.

We now find the earth as it was a million years ago, a condition that will create life, a very small spark it is true, but as the one spark of

life has been brought into existence by natural causes, so other life ²⁰
can spring forth from the first small spark. Let us visualize the
birth of the spark of life in the amoeba from that to the forming of
protoplasm, and gradually minute forms of life begin to appear on the
shores of streams, lakes and seas. In the course of time some of this
protoplasm in the form of insects or worms crawl from ~~from~~ the ooze to the
solid land and become insects or worms, gradually assuming new forms until
we have insects, birds, worms, and in time small animal life. Other proto-
plasm taking to the sea, we have the beginning of fish and reptile life,
which if allowed and assisted by nature to proceed in a natural order of
evolution, would in a course of ^{two} million years, ~~what~~ account ~~of~~ for all
the varieties of insect, bird, fish and animal life we know have existed
on this earth for a long period of time. This would readily account for
the many divisions of life, and the vast number of species of each division.
At a period of, let us say 3, ^{million} ~~xxx~~ years ago, the anthropoid were in existence;
apes, monkeys, chimpanzees and others of that branch of mammals, and amongst
them was the particular anthropoid from which man sprung. Now we must acknowl-
edge ^{once} ~~for~~ and for all, that man is an animal, nothing more, nothing less. We
may flatter ourselves by saying that we are thinkers and doers, and that we
are vastly ^{superior} ~~superior~~ to all living creatures, but say what we will in egotism
and pride, we remain animals just the same. The human anatomy is precisely
the same as the ~~monkeys~~, and man resembles all living creatures in structure
and shows the same family likeness to the ancient source of life from which
all living creatures sprang.

Plant life probably began in the same manner and ~~at~~ the same time as
animal life. It is possible that plant life began earlier, as it is of a
simpler structure. And plant life may have been in existence when life started
And the small insects may have found some kind of food prepared for their
sustenance when they came into being. Besides that the heated and chemically
strong substance in that early period of the earth's existence, would have a
tendency to ~~assist~~ a rapid and thick growth of vegetable matter. This seems
reasonable when we remember the gigantic animals that existed in prehistoric
times, the flying lizard, giant dinosaurs, and the great sea animals that
filled the seas. These great beasts ^{were} no doubt, a part of ~~a~~ the process of
evolution, to make the world more inhabitable for future breeds of animals.
These large animals and reptiles were simply large digestive machines, where-
by their great consumption of animal and vegetable matter and natural process-
es of nature and death, fertilized the soil of the earth to prepare it for
future ~~xx~~ plant and animal life.

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When the purpose for which nature created them was accomplished, nature abolished them either by lack of sufficient food, or a violent change in nature itself of which we cannot be certain; yet it is certain the large land and sea animals disappeared, and the only record we have of them are the fossil remains in ancient strata of rock. The end of the great monsters was probably the beginning of the ancestors of present day life as we know it. always remembering the grand process of evolution that has a tendency to improve all forms of life, unless some great convulsion of nature temporarily halt the process, for we observe a natural tendency in this world of a continuous improvement in all things. So we can repeat that ages ago the ancestors of man in the form of one of the species of ~~anthropomorphics~~ ^{anthropoids} appears on earth; not in any sense of the word a monkey, for it is not at all necessary to assume that man descended from the ape. Objection might be made to this statement by saying that if man descended from an ape like creature, he would not have gained any superior station in the world, but would have remained upon the same intellectual level as the other ~~anthropomorphics~~ ^{anthropoids}. Yet a plausible and perhaps a very good reason can be given why man was separated from the other ~~anthropomorphics~~ ^{anthropoids}, and became the physical and mental superior of all other animals. This reason may have been due entirely to a matter of diet. Let us suppose ~~that all these~~ that all these anthropoids for a long period of time, lived on the same kind of food- the same chemical content, and that condition going along for a great period of time; all of these animals would be in about the same mental and physical state. Now let us imagine that a large part of this animal herd left its main body for some reason - say a shortness of food, or perhaps in a primitive rage. and began an emmigration to distant parts. We may say for instance from the Central Part of Asia- South-eastward.

After years of wandering this part of the herd arrived at the sea-coast, probably where the City of Tyre and Sidon were afterwards built. From ~~there~~ ^S on the tribe of anthropoid would have access to an entirely new kind of food; seaweed, crab, shrimp, oysters, sea-fish, plants impregnated with sea-salt, and the result would be an entirely new kind of chemical food. would be introduced into their blood; something new and very necessary for man's improvement.

It may be that the introduction of iodine, sulphur, phosphorus and sea-salt may have made the whole change from animal to the human instinct and sense. We now know that a good balanced diet improves all human beings- in fact diet is one of the ^{principles} principal treatments for sick-

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ness for patients in our hospitals; so we can imagine what a vast change it would have made in the physical and mental condition of primitive man; This would not only account for the change from animal to human mental condition, but it would also reasonably account for the difference in the race of men itself, locality, environment and variety of food may account for all the variety of the human race. X Observe the difference between the strong, powerful Norman, and the small weak run of humanity in India and China. Is it hard to believe that this difference was caused by diet and climate? This theme seems so reasonable that one is almost forced to believe that man's change from animal to human was caused entirely by the addition of very necessary chemical elements into the blood. X Let us imagine that when primitive man began taking iodine and sulphur into his blood it had the effect of stimulating his brain and caused his mind to expand, and accelerated his nerves of thought, one slight uplift of brain-power would start the mind on the thought road, and it would never from then on cease to think and improve. So if the spark of human intelligence started that way, then the whole improvement in mankind over the animal is readily understood. X The spark of intelligence enters a man's mind, and he begins to think - he sees two logs lashed together on the sea-shore, and discovers when he steps upon them that they do not roll - that he can keep his balance, there the raft is born in his brain; the same may be said of his seeing ~~a~~ four small trees together; their branches intertwining, and the idea of shelter takes form, his cave is forgotten and he plants four posts, covers them with branches and a house is built. The first real home of primitive man.

It is difficult to state when the ^{two} first grand discoveries for the benefit of mankind were first formed in the ~~man~~ mind - these two ideas ^{the ones} may have been that gave man his dominion over all other living creatures; they were fire and the wheel. Fire was undoubtedly the first and most beneficial find, although we must admit that it came to man's notice naturally, but the use of it had to be learned. Fires had occurred for ages, the lightening stroke alone would provide fire from the very beginning, but the time came when man discovered they could ~~not~~ utilize fire for their comfort and benefit. Probably some ancient man picked up a burning branch of a tree that had been struck by lightening and carried it with him ⁱⁿ to his cave to give some light to the darkness, and at once felt the heat permeating the cave, it would at once strike his mind that the heat made his cove more comfortable, and possibly the first cooked

food was an accident- a piece of meat near the cave/^{fire}became scorched with heat, and it afterwards was eaten. The difference would have beenme apparent, and man would in the future roast his meat. The additional discovery of seasoning food would make a still greater advance in man's diet, and would stimulate his desire for more and better food. The use of fire would be an advance in man's mental attainments, and no doubt would improve man's living conditions, giving him comfort and good food. and enabling him to keep warm, without very heavy body covering, and as he discarded the skins necessary to keep him warm, the hair on his body became less thick and coarse, and he would become less and less like an animal. So we believe that when primitive man learned the use of fire for heating, cooking and finally as a force to assist him in clearing land, cracking rocks, sharpening his tools and weapons, he was in condition to conquer all animals, and become the superior being.

The second great discovery was the wheel, and that has done morefor the improvement of mankind than any other benefit; for not only was the wheel a great benefit to primitive man, but the modern world would be lost without the wheel. Everything that moves from the fine jewelled watch, to the largest ocean-going steamship depend\$upon the wheel; How ancient man came to find the wheel, we can conjecture only- probably a round rock was formed with a hole in the center of it; to handle it more readily, a stick was thrust through the hole, adding two branches to the stick, and we have the primitive wheel-barrow, which was surely man's first wheel-locomotion and his first method of moving heavy burdens otherwise than by ~~his~~ ^{main} strength. After the discovery of fire and the wheel, men were no longer tied to one spot , for now they had the power of locomotion in the wheel, and the raft; man could then move from one locality to another, carrying his goods with him. and could then spread out in all directions to populate any and all distant lands .

All these new methods of living would have a tendency to differentiate man from the animals, and as a man would continue to improve physically, and mentally, the difference would grow by leaps and bounds, until it became so pronounced that man emerged from the animal to the upright thinking individual. Homo Sapiens - the only reasonable thinking animal in the world. We now visualize man spreading over the earth, he has found edible seeds and grains, also wild fruit, honey and nuts, and may have by observation, learned to plant seeds of nuts, and wild grains, and so learned the art of cultivation; that and the domesticating of some

of the semi- wild ~~beasts~~ to their own use, would place man in the position of moving about briskly, settling down to home making and joining his fellow man in forming small communities, which in time would be turned into villages and towns. This continuing for a long period of time, would gradually form a race and last of all a nation. ^X At what period of time in the ~~past of the~~ age of the world, this took place, it is impossible to say definitely, for today we can only conjecture as to how long man has lived on earth. The unearthing of the skulls of the Pilt^{Neanderthal} and Java ~~remains seem to~~ indicate that these people lived a matter of two hundred thousand years ago. Indeed the Pilt^{Neanderthal} skull is considered far older than that, but we are at least certain that man or his ancestors lived on this earth at least at that period of time. Now the strange thing is, what caused the long delay in man's arriving at a civilized condition from that remote period until the time when man began to ^{leave a} record- either in buildings monuments or writing; It is possible that great convulsions of nature kept man from a rapid advance to civilized conditions.

It is claimed that life has been almost destroyed time after time, by a glazier¹ convulsion, when mountains of ice move across the earth with terrific violence; wiping out everything in the path of the moving mass; those glazier periods are supposed to occur every twenty five thousand years, and the cause is that the rotation of the earth on its axis causes the oceans to flow toward the south pole ^{where} the ice accumulates year after year, and ^{becomes} ~~because~~ very thick, it is now at the south pole three or four miles in height. If that condition continues long enough. the extremely heavy weight accumulating at the south pole would cause the globe to become unbalanced, resulting in the world itself suddenly changing its axis, which would cause this dense mass of ice to break loose from the south pole, and spread death and destruction all over the continent; ~~it would moreover,~~ ^{these} in time ~~this~~ convulsions setting down, the earth would have its equator in another belt and the same process would again occur in twenty-five thousand years. This is of course merely conjecture, but it has been put forth as a fact by some of ~~the~~ the best known physicists, and it seems to be based upon some fact.

It has been set forth that the ancient Egyptian Astronomers knew this, and that they built the Pyramid ^{of} Cheops as a guide to the time when the next glacial period would happen on the earth. There is a gallery looking directly north, and when a certain star which makes its circle of the universe every twenty-five thousand years, appears in line of sight with this gallery, then

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the glacial period is at hand, and the inhabitants of the earth can prepare for a change in the whole earth's climate. This may seem fantastic and far fetched, and yet it may be substantially true, and may be the real reason why primitive man has not left a record or history. It appears that the Cro Magnon man was the first of the primitives to leave a noticeable trace of his sojourn on earth;

In the caves in France where the remains of the race ^{were} found, we find painting, carving on bone, and ivory, tools, and utensils of bone, iron and flint, and from the fine art they display in their painting and drawings, also in their perfection of their tools and utensils, they certainly must have arrived at a higher degree of sense and culture.

The Cro Magnos were the first recorded race that show any of the real attributes of modern man, and from them may have sprung the inhabitants that finally formed the great European races.

Where ~~the~~ ^{started} ancient man first ~~start~~ a race, and begin to leave a recorded mark of man for coming generations to decipher. ~~That~~ cannot be answered, only can we guess. Any one of the Continents can be selected, and all would appear favorable, but the consensus of opinion seems to be that either Asia or Africa saw the first real rise of man from the primitive to the civilized. possibly in the Tigris or Nile Valleys. Both were formed by nature to sustain man in comfort, with good climate, soil and an abundance of water, all necessary to improve man's condition- physically and mentally.

Let us assume that man first settled permanently in the fine valleys of Asia, and from there spread over Africa and Europe. We now note that the early records are mostly located in Asia, the records of the Sumerians and Babylonians, and the long recorded ^{known} history of the Egyptians. The records of the known dynasties of the Egyptian Kings ~~show~~ to show a civilization known now to be at least eight thousand years old.

The Egyptians must have had a civilization far beyond that period, for no race of men could have reached their perfection in the arts, building and hieroglyphics within so short a period of time. Nature and evolution are very slow builders, and it must have necessarily taken ages of time to bring Egypt to the point ~~where~~ when men understood Architecture, painting, sculpturing, and above all the science of government in the way of a Kingdom with a ruling class.

The same can be said of Sumaria and Babylon, which were in an advanced state six or seven thousand years ago; we can figure from that

that the civilization of those countries must have taken at least twice ²⁶ that time to bring them to the state of perfection which enables modern man to read a part of their history. We must at least double the known period of time, and say that these people began their great efforts at least fifteen thousand years ago.

We can now imagine man started on his career towards civilization; races and countries formed, cities and towns built, and forms of government established. Man has now started on his road to prominence in all things - earth cultivation is established, governments are formed; new modes of transportation are being found, communications are made with different tribes and races, and then began to leave records which are now being readily deciphered by Archaeologists.

When theories of God and religion first permeated the minds of men, cannot possibly be known, that idea is in the realm of thought beyond proof or conjecture. But of one thing we can be very certain, and that is that the idea of God and religion was implanted in the minds of men, primitive, ancient and modern, by fear and fear alone. This statement cannot be sensibly combatted, for absolutely nothing else could have started the idea of religion but intense fear.

Let us imagine primitive and ancient man surrounded by the incomprehensible fear of the elements alone, could he understand the thunder and lightening, tornado, earthquake and the violent storms, floods and all natural convulsions which are understood by us, but which must have filled their minds with fear and dread. Possibly ancient man attributed these violent acts of nature to the work of demons or angry persons around them in the unknown regions above. If men's minds were active, they would try to understand the causes of these great disturbances, and not being able to understand them, would gradually try to propitiate them. Thus would be born the idea of supplication and propitiation, which might be the beginning of prayer and offerings to the demons of the elements to soften their anger, and bring peace and prosperity to man and his efforts to make a living.

There is no doubt in ancient times some of the men were superior in intelligence, and craft to their fellow-men and discovered that through fear they could dominate their fellow-man by cunningly contriving to convince them that they had some special power or influence with the powers above and below which they could exercise for the benefit of their fellow-man, provided they were recompensed for their influence

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and were not compelled to labor for a living, they assuming to take care of the spiritual welfare of the tribe if they were permitted to devote their time to spells and incantations only, which would give them ample time to pray, and also to live off of the fat of the land in idleness.

We here have the beginning of the priesthood, which under one name or another has been implanted amongst us from the beginning of recorded history; we can well imagine that the priesthood kept the people in fear and dread, for that was the backbone of their profession; the more the people feared unknown dangers and demons, the better chance they had of keeping them in subjection; naturally the profession of priesthood attracted all subtle and cunning men, it gave them power and profit, and they were at all times exempted from hard labor, fighting in wars, and the choice of the best there was of good living, good quarters and a fat income.

So we can assert that the idea of God and religion was assiduously implanted and cultivated in the minds of men for the sole benefit of the priesthood; reading the history of all ancient races and countries bears out this assertion with telling force. For history teaches us that the priest craft ruled the minds of men in Babylon and Egypt.

From the very beginning the priesthood formed an alliance with the powers that be; usually in ancient times kings ruled, so you will find the priests backing the king in his might, tyranny and power. No matter how vicious the government was, it was backed by the priesthood; as long as the government permitted them the spiritual power, the priests were crafty enough to know that in the long run the spiritual power was more lasting and certain than the temporal; for while rulers and governments might change, the minds of men were very slow to change, and the priests in spite of the change of rulers could continue their dominance over the minds of the people through fear and superstition.

The priesthood being established now as a regular profession they do all they can to improve their position with the people; so a new idea is born that will give them more power and reward. They have heretofore stood between man and his fears, offering them protection at a price, but they now conceive the great idea of offering reward, and they create beings who can punish and reward, and who will hearken to the supplication of the priests, and reward or punish as the priest supplicate or condemn, and behold the Gods are created by the priesthood.

We have now the ideal condition for the priesthood- Gods whom they have created, and whose particular servants they are, Gods whom they

maintains and worships, and the people must always appeal to the priests to 28
intercede for them when they need, or fancy they need the God's Assistance;
it being understood that the priests alone have the power to propitiate
an angry God or have enough influence with him to cause him to give out
rewards and blessings at the behest of the Priests; all countries and all
races of men will show this idea, for all the priesthoods, and all priests
in all times and countries have taken dire advantage of their ignorant
fellowmen.

We now have arrived at that period of the world's progress when
tribes are formed, countries settled, forms of government inaugurated,
rulers and their assistants at the head of state affairs, and a priesthood
with their different kinds of religions and Gods implanted in the minds of
the people; for the priests have been busy for a long time, manufacturing
Gods, and let ^{it} be firmly stated, once and for all, that all of the ^{Gods} ~~Gods~~ created
by all races and priests are a reflection ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ and a direct
image of the race that created them. What else could they create? They only
knew themselves, and their own particular God or Gods, could only be a subli-
mated picture of themselves, with all their own faults and virtues, and the
Gods of every country and race, ^{are} ~~are~~ simply an enlarged image of the ones that
did the creating.

For the reason that in the history of the whole world, there is
no possible record of any God creating himself; in all instances Gods were
man-made. This applies equally to all Gods, were they created in ancient or
modern times.

It will also be noted that there was as a rule more than one
God, and almost all religions have female ^{as} and well as male Gods. This was
probably brought about by the subtle priesthood in order to satisfy the
minds of the female part of the population. It ~~was~~ always being a good policy
of the priests to keep the woman subservient. Some of the priests were wise
enough to make ^{one} a religion with only ~~God~~ God. This in itself shows great wisdom,
for reason shows that the idea of more than one God can never be anything
but ridiculous. Man is not a very wise animal, notwithstanding all his ad-
vantages and education, but how any man can believe in a multiplicity of Gods
is simply beyond all conjecture.

The races of the world being now formed, their governments in
operation, religions established, and agriculture, arts and education set in
motion, we have the world in a mental state that can leave records of its
advance for future generation of man to study, which will give us a good idea
~~of~~ of man's steady progress towards a higher and better life on this earth.

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and if he can perceive the errors and mistakes of those who have gone before, he can in his wisdom so cleanse his mind that he can by reason and reflection avoid making the same errors over and over again.

We can now follow the histories and myths of ancient times, and in the course of this work bring them down to this modern age, and let us see if we have improved our minds in our knowledge of Gods and religions, so that we can at this date in the world's life discuss and analyze ~~this~~ these great world- problems in a rational manner.

CHAPTER III

E G Y P T

Egypt is one of the oldest civilizations in recorded history. It is not certain how far back the annals of the country extend, but it is believed that the records deciphered extend ~~some~~ backwards to the remote period of about eight thousand years. The records on the monuments, and also those hieroglyphic writings on the tombs of the ancient kings and rulers ^{families} show that the dynasties of the ancient ruling ~~family~~ extend back to that great length of time. It may be that Egyptologist will make further discoveries of that early civilization which will extend our knowledge far beyond even that immense length of years. If we are certain today that Egyptian history is authentic for eight thousand years, we may be sure that the beginning of that civilization was at least twice that length of time, for at the time to which the study of Egypt has brought us, there were great buildings, statues, paintings and their work in jewelry, glass and many other of the fine arts had reached a high degree of perfection unexcelled by any other ancient race. No country could reach this advanced state of learning without a long period of training. Civilization does not advance by leaps and bounds, but slowly century after century, and by degrees a race progresses higher and higher, and to reach the high degree of perfection, that is shown in their now known records, must have taken at least twice eight thousand years, and perhaps a great deal longer period than that. X We do know that eight thousand years ago, Egypt had a settled government with a king and a ruling class of nobles, ^{the} inhabitants showed skill and knowledge in architecture and building, fine arts, manufactures of all kinds, and had a good knowledge of agriculture, and the art of living must have been of a very high degree of intelligence. What we know of the personal character of these ancient peoples is very little, but we do know they were a silent, mystical folk, and the ruling class of the country were very brilliant in politics and science, and were profound thinkers; they made a deep study of metaphysics, and also of astrology, and it is certain that the intense study of astronomy occupied the minds of the higher circles of thought, even during that remote period.

The Egyptians were, without doubt, first class astronomers, and may have understood the motions of our solar system, and some of the facts of the universe as did the astronomers of our own time- that is of the knowledge we had 200 years ago.

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The ancient buildings and monuments existing today in Egypt, are monumental in their grandeur of conception and in the knowledge and perfection of their execution. The Egyptians embalmed their dead, and all evidence goes to prove that they firmly believed in the resurrection of the body, and embalmed the body to try and keep it in a state of perfection for the coming day of resurrection; they also believed in a place of outer- darkness, a shadowy abode from which after a long period of probation they could join their earthly bodies and continue the eternal life the same as the one they lived on this earth; consequently the Egyptians believed that man had a soul, and that he was immortal; they also believed that some of the animals had souls. and worshipped them, the cat especially being venerated as ~~holy~~ ^{holy} and set-apart; it being a crime to injure one; probably other animals and even birds were held sacred; and it is recorded that during some period of Egyptian history, the River Nile itself, was venerated as holy. We can believe from this that the mind of the ancient Egyptian was extremely mystical and it seems that all of the thoughts and movements of his life were about equally balanced between the mystical and the natural. Men of that state of mind could be readily influenced and easily governed by a cunning priest-craft, and they worked on the minds of these mystical people, controlling them ^{for} ~~to~~ their own particular advantage and financial profit.

From the very earliest times the priests interfered in governmental affairs, some times aiding and abetting the kings and rulers, and some times opposing them, but at all times keeping themselves well in front in all matters concerning the government and the welfare of the people. From the very beginning of Egyptian civilization, numerous Gods were made by the priests and some were even made by the ruling kings there were indeed so many of them created, that it would be tiresome to enumerate them; Gods were made and set-up in one period only to be suppressed and cast aside latter on, and other Gods made and substituted in their places. There is a long recorded number of old Gods that lost their hold on the people when newer Gods were set up, they often changed their Gods, but it was seldom they changed their mode of living, or even their dress. It is strange indeed, that a people who so seldom changed their mode of living habits, could change their Gods without any compunction whatsoever. It must be that the Egyptian mind was strongly under the influence of the supernatural. That everything on earth was controlled by some outside influence, and that would account for the

the priestcraft had over the people, for it is certain the priests dominated the minds, the habits, behavior and the very lives of the inhabitants of this country. ~~The best known Gods of Egypt~~

The best known Gods of Egypt were Osiris, Isis, and Horus, Osiris was the main God of Egypt, for all ancient races had a top God; there were of course numerous other Gods, but of necessity there had to be a main God; He was the God of light, probably in the beginning, the sun, for the sun was worshipped as God. So Osiris was the sun God, or God of Light and giver of all benefits.

Isis, was the wife of Osiris, and the mother of Horus, and in the birth of Horus, we find one of the many miraculous births that is taught in so many religions.

The priests who created these Gods simply had to have a miracle, for it seems when priests made Gods, they must make them in an unnatural manner; otherwise the ignorant would not pay the slightest attention, so we find the Egyptian priests creating Horus by a miracle and what a miracle it was- imagine the ingenuity of the priests that got up the tale that Horus was born of his mother Isis after she was dead, and that she was then brought miraculously back to life, resurrected mind you, and then ascends to heaven to live forever.

Other religions since have copied this theme, changed the names only, and giving it out as the real miraculous start of their new religion; study this carefully and note it resembles other and similar religious stories; miraculous births, resurrection of the dead, ascension into heaven, and life everlasting, the same old tune in another key. The Egyptians had their heaven and hell which all future religions copied, and their seat of judgments for the souls of all mankind where the souls could be condemned or pardoned into everlasting glory; this is also a theme which most later religions copy, and that theme is strongly played upon by modern religions.

The stories of Osiris, Isis and Horus shows them to us as real Egyptians, mystical, solemn and having all of the characteristics of the people themselves, which proves that the Egyptians created them in their own image. The latter state of the religious minds of the Egyptians proves itself to be the same as the ancient, in being very changeable as will be noticed in the violent religious wrangles in Egypt two thousand years ago, when religion was a mass of contentious rages and all religious discussion dissolved itself in a tempest of fury and blind ignorant hate.

The story of Ancient Egypt and its people is a beautiful drama in world history- astonishing in its age, and the many myths in ~~this~~ its religions, ~~myths~~ and Gods, and is a story of human interest, not surpassed by any history of any race or government.

Some day in the future, Egyptologist may by their patient research and untiring labor, discover and make known to us far more ancient records of this wonderful/^{race} than we have at the present time, and we may possibly be greatly pleased and very much astonished if we obtain a real inkling into the vest unknown prehistoric beginning of this peculiar and mysterious people.

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CHAPTER IV

C H I N A

The beginning of the civilization of China, as the beginning of the race of men who make up the people we call Chinese, is as shrouded in dim mystery as almost all the other races and people of antiquity. so far as we are now able to make out their record, the history of China extends backward about four thousand years; again we are compelled by reason to at least double that space of time. The recorded lists of the reigning dynasties of China are so confusing that we so far cannot accurately place them, besides China is a country noted for its lack of change of every description. It is even written of the Chinese by modern historians, that the thoughts, habits and even the dress of this wonderful people has not changed during that period of four thousand years; it is also almost certain that the government has not greatly changed in that length of time, and until the last great up-rising, the same style of ~~monarchical rule~~ had prevailed in China for countless ages.

The Chinese may be one great branch of the human family that emigrated from Central Asia thousands of years ago, marched eastward and finally settled in the country now known as China; when that took place no records seem to show at the present time. Future scholars and historians may perhaps^{APS} be more fortunate, and by some strange chance ~~unearthed~~ some authentic written records of Chinas' past, which will give mankind a real history of the beginning of China and its people.

There is no race of men in the world whose racial characteristics have been ^{so} unchanged during such a vast length of time, and all Chinese are instantly recognized as such at a glance by any one who has come in contact with them; this includes their faces, dress and habits of thought and their characteristics of honesty, sobriety and strict truthfulness.

We can readily believe that the men of ancient China were of the self-same type; and the sterling virtues of the Chinese of today, were handed down to them ~~from~~ generation after generation by their forefathers who early in the making of the Chinese race, and nation implanted honesty and all its accompanying virtues in the minds and hearts of the people, and today the men of China are respected by all discerning men wherever they are met.

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The religion of China is so confusing that Occidentals can hardly understand it. There are two religions that seem to be practiced as such- the religion of Buddah and that of Lao-Tze. The practice of Buddahism was undoubtedly brought to China by Buddah missionaries from India, and a large section of the people took up that teaching, which is extensively practiced today.

Lao-Tze was a native of China who taught his own system of religion and today probably has the most numerous body of believers and worshipers in China.

But the best influence for all came from the teachings of Confucius who was one of the greatest ethical ^{philosophers} ~~philosophers~~ the world has produced; the teaching of Confucius is not so much religious as ethical; he taught men the good rules of proper living; all the human virtues, the proper paths toward man's advance in the correct way to living his own life for the good of himself and family, and also his duty toward his fellow-men, and for the benefit of his country and posterity. The teaching of Confucius has been of inestimable benefit not only to the Chinese themselves, but to all mankind, for his writings have been read and studied in all civilized countries, and the average man reading Confucius will have a far better understanding of the meaning of life, and of his duty and responsibility towards his fellowman. The rules of life in the writings of Confucius are some of the most ~~beautiful~~ beautiful themes in literature.

The religious mind of the Chinese cannot be understood by the Occidental, for the reason that the Chinese mind is entirely different from ours and works along channels that we cannot understand. The Chinese Gods are also incomprehensible, and one is in doubt what or who the real Chinese Gods are; one thing we do know, and that is that the old rulers of China, the emperors, claimed to have been descended from God, and the emperors were considered in a manner a God themselves. There is hardly any doubt ^{what} but the lower classes in China, looked upon the emperors as holy, and set apart, as the masses in Japan so venerate their own ruler to this day. The Chinese idea of heaven is just as peculiar. They believe in a heaven with perhaps fourteen different degrees, but how one climbs from the first to the fourteenth, we do not know, but perhaps the Chinese themselves understand the matter.

One very fortunate thing for the Chinese was that they never had a state religion, or a state priesthood, they were wise enough in the ver-

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beginning not to have an official priesthood forever interfering in their private lives, and mixing up in governmental affairs, that is one blessing the Chinese always enjoyed and ~~do~~ ~~xxx~~ this very day.

What we call religion in China is ancestor worship; that is the one consistent trait of character that has distinguished the Chinese for ages; it is practiced all through life, and at no time in the history of the country has it ever changed; In China the older a person becomes, the more he or she is venerated; while in the Occident, the elders are derided and laughed at, in the Orient the older one grows, the more highly ~~are~~ they are respected. The Occident would do well to learn this splendid moral lesson for their own benefit, and for the betterment of future generations.

There are also other traits of character in the Chinese that we could learn with honor and gain to ourselves. One of these is perfect personal honesty, a trait which is ~~almost~~ entirely lacking in the Occidental character. The Chinese are honest because they are naturally honest, that virtue having been taught and practiced for ages by those people; the Occidental is honest because he must be, and when he finds he can be dishonest without being caught, then he very quietly forgets all the rules of integrity; that applies to truthfulness also. A Chinaman may beat about the bush, twist his talk in canny ways- hard to understand, but pin him down to facts, and the straight truth comes out of him; a splendid trait of character for us to follow in this western civilization, where even the testimony given on oath on the Bible, is usually a ghastly joke, and perjury is rampant in all our Court trials, being looked upon as ^a venal offense.

No man is truthful who is forced to be so; real truthfulness is ^{very} implanted in the heart of man, and to that man it is just as natural as his breathing.

What we assume to be virtues are natural virtues to the Chinese, and are not only taught by them, but are really put into ^{practice} ~~practice~~ in their daily lives. The Chinese are one of the few races that have overrun the whole earth, and at the same time retained their racial characteristics. He in no country loses his race individuality; he always remains a Chinaman, distinguished from all men by his sobriety, labor and strict honesty; they are one great race of mankind that attends strictly to their own business; does not interfere with his neighbor, and above all does not persistently preach to his neighbor and to try and change his way of thinking and believing.

The written and spoken languages of the Chinese are entirely different; their writing is not phonetic, but is made up of signs, and one ^{may} ~~may~~ say ideographs; there are thousand of characters in Chinese writings that must be memorized, and to be well educated, must be a vital task; their talk also depends as much upon inflection as upon the words themselves. ^X There is as before stated, not much known of the Chinese God, but they seem to have populated the earth with thousands of devils, and their religious work does not seem to be the worship of a loving God, but a persistent effort to hoodwink and fool the numerous devils that at all times endeavor to plague and annoy mankind. All of their burial ceremonies are conducted with the purpose of fooling the many devils who try to get possession of the departed one, and the Chinese seem to think the devils are not very wise, for some of the devices practiced ~~are~~ childish in their simplicity; ^X it is very doubtful if the Chinese believe in a literal hell as do the Occidental, the Chinese may in their wisdom have created a horde of devils, but they were not so foolish as to create a hell of fire and brimstone, and Chinese sense and logic would not create a senseless place of perpetual torture.

There is just enough of the mystic in the Chinese to make him interesting, but all of his mystery, he still maintains a certain amount of common sense- ^{with} enough mystery to keep his conduct becoming slack and loose, but not enough to frighten him all through this life, and continue it to his very deathbed; let us hope that in the near future, more and better data will be found that will give us a better insight into the past history of this great and wonderful race.

Living along both side of the English Channel. and also on the Atlantic Seaboard were a strange and very peculiar people called in history the celts. This race comprised the Scotch, Brittans, Welsh, Irish, Belgian, French and Northern Spanish; this was and is a hardy strong-headed people hard working, industrious and tenacious, in their habits and beliefs, and in time became the world's best colonizers and have done the most to build up the remote places on the Globe. How this race originated is shrouded in mystery. Some writers seem to believe they were the descendants of the Cro Magnons, the prehistoric race of men that lived in France thousands of years ago, and left their records in art and utensils of daily life in some of the vast explored caves of France.

One small colony of this strange people lived in the Pyrennes, partly in France, but mostly in Spain. This family had nothing in common with any other European people; their language has nothing in common with any other tongue and the basic root of their speech is not derived from any known language.

It has been believed by some writers on the subject that the Basques were descendants of the ancient inhabitants of the lost continent of Atlantis, of which we read in Plato. This continent stretching from South America to Africa, was supposed to have been submerged in the Atlantic Ocean some thousands of years ago in a great convulsion of nature which changed a large portion of the earth's surface; it is supposed that a colony of these people of Atlantis escaped this destruction and settled on the coast of Spain, where they retained possibly their language and some of their racial characteristics which are noted in the Basques only. The Basques have always maintained their independence, and have never submitted to the dominance of France or Spain; it may be possible that this particular family is the fountain head of the Celtic Race. However, this is merely conjecture, and is a very interesting study for students who like to delve into the dim past, seeking the origin of all ancient people. While all of the celtic tribes are of one race, yet they are so different in temperament and in habits that it is almost impossible to give them a simple classification; each and every tribe has its own habits, ways of thinking, doing its world work in its own way, that it is some times very hard to believe they are the same people, and yet there is no doubt that the Celts are as distinct as any other of the world's well known peoples.

As each tribe is entirely different from the other in habits, speech and most of the usual ways of living, it is almost impossible to define the religion of the Celts, but in all probability, most of them were Druids; this was a religion dominated entirely by the priests, who had absolute power not only over the people, but who commanded and actually received the obedience of the kings and rulers.

There is no doubt that this was a harsh and very cruel religion, as all religions are which are dominated by a determined, hard priesthood, and the priest-craft of the Druids was as coldly cruel as any other of which we have any record; human sacrifice was practiced for ages by the Druid priests and usually the priests saw to it that their own personal enemies were usually the victims of the necessary sacrifice to appease the anger of the Gods.

You will notice in this arrangement what a great benefit human sacrifice has been to the priests, a method of striking terror into the hearts and minds of the people, and at the same time giving them ample opportunity of torturing ^{and slaying} their personal enemies; the priest who invented that scheme was the craftiest and most cunning of all the priests who have ever lived.

The best known place of worship of the Druids was in England where some remnants of their temples still survive, notably Stonehenge, these temples were not roofed, but were open to the elements and the religious ceremonies of the Druids all seemed to have taken place in the open air. The ceremonies, cold, heartless without human feeling, without pity, and in the whole black creed, there was not a spark of love, pity, veneration or a particle of human kindness. This was the religion of England at the time of the Roman Conquest, and if the Romans did not do any other ~~any~~ good in England, they at least conferred a great benefit on the Britons by stamping out this horrible religion and its vile priest-craft. We have no good record of the Druids' Gods, but it seems that their Gods were about the same as the Norse Gods and the Norse Gods may have been worshipped by all of those Northern people at one and the same time; we have the same record of brutal cruelty practiced by the Druid Priests in France, at the time of Caesars' ^{conquest} of Gaul, but this level-headed sane commander seeing the power and devilry of the priestcraft holding the people in subjection by terror and forever interfering in politics, quickly suppressed the priesthood and gave Gaul ~~and~~ good government and religious liberty.

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This reminds us that Caesar was the world's first great liberalizer, and not only gave Roman law, Roman knowledge of government, and peace to all conquered provinces, but best of all he destroyed priesthoods that shackle both the minds and bodies of men; that was the first period in world history that men's minds were unshackled, and began to think without fear of the priestcraft who had ^{kept} men in abject terror for ages.

The Belgians seemed to be the mildest of the Celts in their religious practices; perhaps they were more level-headed and ^{did} not allow the priests full power over their minds and bodies, and the records do not show that the priests in Belgium had unlimited power, for at least at the time of the Roman Conquest the people of Belgium seemed to have been free from priestly dominance; Of the Irish at that time very little is known, but we do know they were a violent, turbulent people with kings in every county - in fact it looks like every man in Ireland at that time imagined he was a king, or at least considered himself as good as any king. all we know about Ireland at that period was constant warfare between petty chieftains ^{or} kings and states and feud between kings and counties was a common condition of the country. In fact all of Ireland's history is a mass of turbulence, bloodshed and cruel strife, and very deep religious superstition has not cured the Irish mind from its ^{innate} fantastical habit of causing trouble and strife on all possible occasions, as the Irish are the one civilized people who are not capable of governing themselves, each and every Irishman craving to be clothed in authority however, brief, that makes the Irish the master policemen of the world. As a policeman and a top-sargeant, the Irish are without a peer.

Fortunately for the world, the Druid religion was stamped out ages ago, it had no reason for existence, and did not stand the light of reason; the Druids had both Priests and Priestesses, and one is led to believe that both took the usual vows of celibacy and chastity, and both naturally took advantage of the privileges attaining to Holy Orders, the Mistletoe is held sacred and entered in to all their religious ceremonies, and it is believed it was also used as medicine by the priests to cure all kinds of disorders, real or imaginary.

It is not clearly shown if the Druids had any idea of heaven and hell, but as we know the religion was extremely cruel, they must have had a place of future torment and torture, for that would be strictly in the minds of such hard and viciously cruel priests: What kind of a heaven could be imagined by such a cold ^{gloomy} ~~xxxx~~ group of men is beyond conjecture, and as there was not a single trait of human kindness in these men, it is impossible they could have promised any love or happiness at any time for their poor ignorant be-nighted worshippers: to what depths of fanaticism must these poor ^{HAVE} dupes, decended, so that the priestcraft could for such a long time keep them in abject subjugation. This religion like all others was based on fear and ignorance - abject fear of the unknown fostered by a smart crafty priesthood and a dense ignorance fostered by

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the priests, for priests in even those early days were wise enough to know that when intelligence and sense enter the minds of men, the priests would lose their hold on their people who would begin to do their own thinking.

The power of all priests is based upon preventing men from thinking for themselves, and this they prevent at all hazards, and from infancy all men were taught that they must not think but only obey. That not only applies to the Druids, but to all religions in all ages, thus we note in the Celtic race the same ideas as all other people that they create their Gods to their own image, and in the case of the Celts we find a dour, gloomy people with a cold-hearted religion. Two of the great branches of this race have changed considerably in the past two thousand years- the French and the English; there is a very good reason for this change for the better, as these two peoples have had the benefit of an influx of a good many different kinds of people. The French assimilated the Latins, Germans, Swiss and other races, this meeting and intermarrying of different peoples has improved the population mentally and physically, which shows plainly in the sprightliness and quick wit of the French, their power of reason and logic, and they are an immense benefit to the world in art, science and letters. The English also came out of barbarism early, the contact with the hard-headed intelligent Romans, the immigration of Norse, Normans and Germanic peoples has made England today a race of broad-minded and intelligent men, fit to govern themselves and to take their place in the world as men fitted to give an example of high efficient government to all countries, taking it by and far the Celtic race has been a great benefit to humanity, and most of the Celtic people have been a pattern that other races could with profit to themselves emulate.

I n d i a

India is one of the old countries of the world whose beginning is shrouded in mystery, and it is possible it was the cradle of the human race, like several other countries it has now, and has had in the past, everything necessary, not only to sustain life, but also to bring life into being. At the same time we are faced with the possibility that life came into existence spontaneously in several parts of the globe: it is not at all certain that life was generated in one particular place, if life began in the amoeba at any one certain locality, it is certainly possible that the same conditions prevailed at other points on the Globe, so we are forced to admit that life may have started in Asia, Africa, Europe, America, or perhaps Australia, this idea is far-fetched and may perhaps be only a figure of imagination, yet we cannot overlook the matter, as there is a remote possibility that the idea is substantially correct.

If nature could have started the spark of life in the valley of the Tigris, it could just as well have started the same process in India, or the Nile Valley of Egypt: this is a subject that will be studied in the future by Archaeologists and perhaps the day will come when the scientists will be able to inform us what was the real beginning of the human family and where life originated.

History tells us that ^aIndia was a populace and well built up country when Alexander invaded it twenty five hundred years ago, so we are again faced with the fact that tribes and peoples had lived their lives in India for the past ten thousand years, or it may be for a far greater length of time: No one can say that any old country is older than another, for the beginning of all of them is shrouded in impenetrable mystery.

For past ages the one great drawback to the country called India has been the lack of change in the habits and customs of its people: It is probable the same conditions prevailed thousands of years ago that we witness today, and the main blighting curse of the country is the caste system. In no other country does this system prevail, and it is certain that it is a custom that ^{any} prevents rise in the mass of the people that can raise them from abject poverty and starvation to a position of affluence in the world: When people are born into a certain caste in India, there they must remain, they themselves and their posterity, generation after generation, in the lower castes a hopeless mass of suffering, poverty and starvation. No chance for advancement - not a single chance to crawl out of the clough of despond - millions of lives degraded before they are born. India is one of the countries where the government should teach the people the use of contra-ceptives for it is one of the countries where unlimited child birth is a public crime: It is fiendish cruelty to bring children to life where they are condemned in advance to a life of suffering

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of semi-starvation and not a single ray of hope, for peace, happiness ~~xxxx~~ or prosperity, from a childhood of hopeless misery to an old age of degradation and death; this applies to all countries where the vast majority of the populace are poverty stricken, the land overcrowded, and no possible chance for the major part of the population to live an honest, free, upright life of happiness of peace and plenty.

The historical India we know is a largely overpopulated country divided into several principalities or kingdoms, ruled by Maharajas or Princes, at the present time, the land is ruled by the English government, and it is possible and is believed by most thinking men that the English rule has been very beneficial to the masses of the people of India: formerly the Rajahs ruled, each in his own separate kingdom, and it is understood that all of these were purely despotic governments, the people having no voice whatever in governmental affairs: this condition of affairs of state must have had a tendency to make the government cruel, harsh, with no protection for the poor and lowly, a condition which must have ground down the vast majority of its ignorant people to a condition of depraved blighting misery and poverty.

X By abolishing the power of the Rajahs, and giving the country a good central controlled government, ^{England} it did succeed in giving the lower classes a slight chance to improve their physical condition and at least gave a great number of the population a chance of obtaining simple justice; it is provable the judicial system of England has been of more real benefit to India than any other governmental function, for say what you will the judicial system of England is the very best that any Country has devised.

At the time of Alexander's invasion, it is certain that the same political and racial structure existed as that found by the English when they took political possession of the country.

There is no evidence that the priests ever over-rode the Rajahs who seemed to have had a firm hand at all times on political affairs; the Rajahs permitted the priests to go as far as they liked in religious matters only. The result is a confusing number ^{and} of kinds of religions. There are so many in fact that we cannot sensibly describe them all; one of ^{the} oldest and best known castes are the Brahmins who were the first in intelligence of all the Indian priests, it is believed the Brahmins invented the caste system, and it is certain they are at the head of all castes in India at this time.

There were ancient Gods of the people that were worshipped for thousands of years- one of the oldest of these Gods was Pitar who occupied the same position in men's minds as Zeus of the Greeks and Jupiter of the Romans; the God Asura, the God of heaven, and Mythra god of the sun

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These Gods were invented by the priesthood who had the people erect temples for the worship of these deities; the priest took possession of these temples, elaborated all kinds of ceremonies to over-awe the worshippers, and finally convinced the ignorant that they were the duly appointed servants of the gods, and must be blindly believed and supported in idleness by their poor dupes.

The Hindus are one of the great bodies of the people of India, and the strange thing about these people is that religion and filth are synonymous, the filthier a man is the holier, and cow-dung ashes and dirt are the hall marks of a very holy man; they also indulge in other fantastical exhibitions of piety as sitting on iron spikes, walking on burning coals holding an arm upright for numbers of years, and in general conducting themselves in a lunatic manner according to our standards of conduct.

They also have a river they believe holy, the River Ganges, and all Hindus at some time in their lives bathe in its waters- in fact a vast number of them enter the water yearly to make them pure, but not as one might suppose, to make them clean; the Hindus practice cremation and they also cast the dead into the River Ganges to be devoured, by fish, turtles and other denizens of the water; the Hindus themselves are a quiet gentle folk, given to contemplation and intense inward study, and are only fanatical in religious matters, and that is very natural indeed, for all ignorant religious people are the same in that respect. The Bible of the Hindus ^{is the} Vidas, it was written and compiled by the priests as all other Bibles have been. The Vidas like other Bibles are a mass of miracles, a lot of contradictions of the laws of nature, a great deal of sheer nonsense, but sufficiently profound and meaningless to fool and befuddle the vast majority of the worshippers.

It is always very handy for the priest to have a written Bible they can always vehemently assert that their own particular Bible is the inspired work of their God, and they can heartily damn all ^{other} ~~these~~ people who do not blindly accept their word as to the truth of their assertion.

Another very extensively practiced religion in India is the Buddahists. This is one of the religions that was supposed to have been started by a living man. We will note other religions of this character later on, but we will now confine this to Buddah; about twenty five hundred years ago, was born one Gautama, who was the scion of a wealthy family, reared in luxury, who travelled over India, and himself saw the terrible poverty and frightful misery of the people; becoming disgusted with the

Practically no Buddhists in India, but are in Ceylon, China, and Japan

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needless suffering and unnecessary hardship of this life, he gave away all of his wealth, and ~~became a poor~~ ^{wanderer} wandered over the earth, teaching peace, good-will, contentment and justice, a religion for ever one high or low, for the rich and the poor, a religion for all men alike; that was the practice and teaching of Gautama during his life, which was a living example of what he taught, and he became known as Buddah "the enlightened one" lived a very beautiful life of peace and happiness, and passed beyond idolized by a vast number of converts who venerate him to this day.

When Buddah passed away, the inevitable happened. The priests took possession of his teaching and good example and converted it into a regular religion, with credos, dogmas, ceremonies, and all such ~~of~~ flummeries to be-fool and be-fuddle the mass of the people, and so turned it from the real, humanizing influence that Buddah made of it, and finally made it a real business; by this time, Buddah's good name and influence was so strong amongst the people that the priests were unable to convince them that all of these ceremonies and dogmas were really the work of the beloved Buddah; from that beginning it was easy for the priests to convince all believers that Buddah was God himself, and the Buddhists since have worshipped Guatama the man as Buddah the God.

So successful were the priest in this religious endeavor that it finally became a theological dogma, and spread over almost all of Asia until this day it is one of the most widely practiced religions in the whole world.

Another peculiar set of people in India are the fakirs, who combine trickery with religion, and are said to be the most prosperous/^{public} beggars in Asia. Most of their tricks are supposed to be done by hypnotism which is an art very highly developed in India; the tricks of the fakirs are quite astonishing to the average Occidental, but are certainly very readily understood by most educated Orientals.

Volumes could be written about the different Gods and religions of India, but all would be alike, and simply a repetition of each other, but as usual the facts stands out plainly that the people of India made their own Gods and the priests the religions, and it can be asserted the smartest and most cunning men in India are within the numerous ~~xxxx~~ priesthoods.

Babylon

The Babylonians were a Semite tribe who settled in the valleys of the Tigres and Nphrates Rivers thousands of years ago. They may have been decendants of the Sumarians, or perhaps a branch of the same stock. Some investigators believe the Sumerians were the more ancient of the two peoples, yet it is always possible both started on the road to civilization at about the same period of time; there is no doubt that of the two the Babylonians reached a very higher degree of culture, for we now have evidence that their libraries contained thousands of volumes of histories and civil records of all descriptions.

The Babylonian Library ^{contains} ~~contained~~ a description of the creation of the world with the story of a flood almost completely destroying mankind, and ^{many} ~~many~~ other tales of the same kind which are found in some of the modern religions.

Like all Asiatics they were a mysterious people and their beginning is likewise a piece of knowledge we may never possess; they left no records which are of any benefit to humanity, no inventions or discoveries which have taught us a better way of living; no good ideas of government or improvements in mathematics or science. and from our viewpoint made no impression on the sands of time for the advancement of the peoples that followed them. Had they never existed, would not have been of the slightest importance to future generations. Like many other ancient peoples, they came, they lingered a long time and then disappeared, as a nation without result, and without regret.

The Babylonians, Assyrians, Sumerians, and Persians are all classed as one great branch of the human family, settling in different parts of Asia, they made their own language, ideas of government, modes of living and dress, and all had one thing in common, they all had the same gods, or similar gods under different names. Each country also had an ^{efficient} ~~efficient~~ and numerous priesthood.

The Gods worshipped in Babylon ^{WERE} ~~was~~ set up thousands of years ago, and in the beginning were like the Greek Gods, the natural elements; it is natural for savage people to look upon the sun, moon and stars, and the natural elements of the earth, as something super-natural, so it must have been easy for these ancient people to worship the sun as the main god. And all other elements as miner or lesser gods. In the course of time the priest would give names to these deities, and they are handed down

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to us with resounding names and titles; the Babylonians like all other people, considered their own particular gods, the only real and true gods; all gods of all other nations were spurious and imitation gods, and other people set up these imitation gods to annoy and spite their own and superior deities; this is a vanity common to all people; their own is always greatest no matter what the subject is, for we all have enough human vanity to boast of our great superiority in all things over all other people.

It is possible that this very human characteristic was as deeply implanted in the minds of the Babylonians, as it is in our own minds in this enlightened century of culture and knowledge; be that as it may, we know that a long time ago the Babylonians and their priesthood formed a religion and manufactured and set up a whole train of gods and as usual one of these gods was the real high number one god, head and shoulders above all the lesser gods- the main god was at first the sun, and the other gods the moon, stars, ^{sun} ~~heat~~, rain and so on indefinitely. Probably gods for all the elements, and for all occasions. This was very convenient for the priests, for the reason that the more numerous the gods, the more priests were needed, for each particular god had to be managed, served and worshipped by his own particular priests. We can perceive that this was truly a splendid arrangement for the benefit of the clergy.

So we have a number of gods created by men with a numerous ~~xxx~~ priesthood created by themselves, and one can readily see this perfect arrangement was not made for the benefit of the great working majority of the people; it was though an arrangement that was usually very satisfactory to the kings and nobles, for it is generally known that in almost all instances, the priestcraft would sustain the governing party, always providing they were left strictly alone to handle the religious end of the government, a very fine arrangement indeed, the king to dominate the bodies of his subjects, and the priest to terrify and darken their minds and wills with their usurped power to bless and curse.

You will notice that always when priests damn or pardon, they claim they have received that power from God himself, directly bestowed upon them by the most-high, but we would like to see some record of some God bestowing any power whatsoever on any body; When any man claims he has been sanctified by God himself, he is at once a perfect liar, or a perfect knave, one or the other, or perhaps both.

We come to the period when the known history of Babylon begins. The country takes its name from the City, as many other city governed countries

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have. The building arts have fully developed a form of writing called Cuneiform has been made, and by the way this form of writing may have been the very first invented; it leaves a lasting record on burnt bricks that have come down to us through the ages, and we are now able to decipher them and gain a vast amount of accurate knowledge of the customs, lives and government of these strange ancient people.

The principal god of Babylon was Bal Marduk, he was worshipped as the leading god, but he had numbers of other gods either helping or sustaining him; there is hardly any doubt but ^{that} ~~the~~ Bal Marduk was the sun. The people being originally sun-worshippers, and so they finally gave him a name; the next in importance was Anu, the God of Heaven, or properly speaking, the God of the Sky, for we must remember that ancient people believe that the sky was a real thing, probably a glass dome of some kind set up over the earth; it is somewhat difficult to differentiate these several gods, so many different names were used for the elemental gods, that a good part of this is guesswork. We have Bal Marduk, God of the Sun and of the Earth, Anu God of Heaven, Bel God of the Earth, this may be Bal again, or Bal's assistant, helping him to run the earth; Ea the God of the sea. Shamus, another sun-God, or perhaps another small god helping Bal Marduk; Sin the God of the Moon, and Ashtar, the Star Goddess, the great life-giving goddess of most all religions; the Babylonians certainly had a large gallery of Gods, from whom they could make their selections for all purposes; they were never at a loss for some god to pray to for every particular need.

The priesthoods of all these gods must have been a very much sought after profession. It would not need a very sharp mind to discover that being a servant of the gods, gave the priests numerous privileges, they were enabled to live off of the fat of the land; the people feared and obeyed them, and in time the priesthood would become the strongest force for good or evil in the whole country. It must be understood that the priests in all ages, prayed upon the ignorance and credulity of the people; always threatening them with dire and awful punishments of the gods should they dare disobey the demands of the priests.

So historically we arrive at the golden age of Babylon, a large city beautifully built of burnt brick mostly, with numerous fine gardens ~~gardens~~ surrounded by high brick walls of immense thickness, and watered by the Euphrates River.

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The City and country certainly had everything to make men peaceful and contented, yet we do not find a good steady advance towards a higher and better civilization. On the contrary we note a decline and a vast decay; what could have caused this was the sloth, indolence and luxury of a benighted ignorant lazy people, or could there ^{have} been a deeper cause; the Babylonians were certainly conquered and destroyed by a stronger race, but why were ^{they} themselves not valiant and strong, and why did they a numerous people fall such an easy prey ^{to} a stronger race; it may be that their religion ate up and destroyed the vitality of the people; in time they may have become so dependent upon their gods, that they did not take the trouble to depend upon themselves- perhaps the priests made them believe that Bal Marduk would defend them from all attack; and if they did place their faith in that teaching, they would find themselves sadly disillusioned when the enemy were at the gates of their City, for in the time of need they would find Bal Marduk ^{sadly} lacking; The Babylonians were not the only race that ^{depended} upon their gods to defend them in an emergency. when they should have kept their swords and spears sharpened; prayers to their gods are mighty fine in times of peace, but when war breaks out, good weapons are far more necessary than numerous and high-sounding prayers, one good general is worth thousands of bad priests .

So Babylon was finally utterly destroyed; its people killed or dispersed over Asia, and what remains of it today are some mounds of earth which lately have been opened up, and some writings discovered in these excavations have given us a fair idea of this long departed civilization; what they gave Asia was probably their gods only, may be a certain amount of constructive knowledge for no doubt they were splendid builders; the name of their principal god spread over Asia, and parts of Africa, and we note several peoples worshipped the great God Bal.

One branch of study was highly developed in Babylon, and that was Astrology, they seemed to believe that every part of human life, birth, living and death was regulated by the sun, moon and stars, and the astrologers spend their whole lives in divining all the details of human life from beginning to end by the condition of the stars at certain periods; astrology for a long period of time was considered an exact science, but when the science of astronomy began to be really developed, astrology became a back number, and was cast into the limbo of mind rubbish; astrology is the science of guesswork, or divination, while astronomy is the science of facts. A vast difference and one which put an end to astrology among thinking men;

Babylonia like many another country could have done far better with more good soldiers, farmers, mechanics and patriotic statemen than with its numerous Gods and numberless and useless clergy.

Phoenecia

The Phoenecians were another branch of the great Semite race, and were doubtless the strongest, hardiest and by far the most intelligent of the Semite people. This may be the result of their early emigration to the sea-coast, for we find them at the beginning of their history located in two good ancient cities, Sidon and Tyre. These Cities being located on the sea- the people in early times became sailors and are now known as the world's earliest and best navigators; The history of the Phoenecians, is a story of their ships and commerce; their ships navigated all the known seas, and they even sailed through the straits of Gibraltar, and made voyages to the west coast of Africa, and even to the British Isles; they established commerce all over the Mediterranean Sea, and founded colonies everywhere. It is certain they were the men who originally started the colony at Marsailles, as this city was well known as one of their early trading posts; they were also one of the first people who started manufacturing on a large and proficient scale, and they are said to have perfected the best dyes that any country of ancient times ever made.

These people had a good deal of influence in establishing better conditions of living, a spread of manufacturing and commerce amongst all the people they visited, and were responsible for a very much improved civilization in all of the Mediterranean countries which were in being in those early days.

These citizens of Sidon and Tyre were considered a hard, cold cruel race of men, very proficient in all they undertook, but with all perfectly heartless in their dealings with their fellowmen, and were the best known example of an extremely selfish and self-centered people.

We cannot doubt the fact that they were great benefactors to the human race; in their seaman-ship alone, they conferred a lasting benefit to all of the people of the world, for in those early days this was the only method that would bring enlightenment to all countries, for an exchange of ideas is what all men need- more especially in that ancient time when knowledge was so hard to obtain; therefore the Phoenecians in their ships spread knowledge of navigation and the manufacturing arts in all countries, and that work alone may have been the real beginning of civilization in Europe.

We cannot admire the private character of the Phoenecians, but we certainly can have an admiration for them as public benefactors; their influence for good amongst their neighbors, was felt through the known world for several centuries, and all seaman since their time have been benefitted by their early daring in navigating the known as well as the unknown seas.

The Phoenecians like the other Semite people worshipped the god Bal, they also had other gods, but probably not so numerous a train of them as did Babylon. We do not know to a certainty if they had a numerous priesthood, for we are confronted with the fact that Sidon and Tyre did not leave us a written history, yet it is certain they had priests of the God Bal, and from what we know of the priests of ~~the~~ Bal in Babylon, the Bal Priests of Sidon and Trye must have been cast in about the same mold; that they were the priests of Bal for their own particular benefit, and that Bal and the poor people came in a very poor second.

~~Tyre~~ and Phoenecia ceased to be a country of consequence after the conquest and destruction of Tyre by Alexander the Great, who ended Tyrian supremacy once and for all when he conquered the City.

There was one branch of the Phoenecians that established one of the greatest and best known nations of ancient times; when Tyre was at the height of its power, and wealth, a numerous party left Tyre and established a colony in Africa, which they called Carthage, and in time Carthage and the Carthagians became known to the whole world of that period; They made Carthage a magnificent City, having a good knowledge of architecture and building, and being also splendid engineers, they laid out the city in a good situation, and constructed probably the finest harbor in the then known world.

Like the other Phoenecians, the Garthagians were very good sailors and merchants, and they became the leading merchants of their time. Their ships sailed to all countries, and they also established colonies everywhere; after probably five hundred years of existence, the citizens no doubt considered themselves the first and foremost nation in the world, and that Carthage was the most commanding city in existence.

There was one terrible fault in the character of the men of Carthage- they were without doubt the most cruel race of men of whom we have any real knowledge; in those early days the whole world was cruel, and how very cruel the Carthageians were can be surmised when we learn that in a cruel world, all people call them cruel; ~~we know that all~~

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We know that all the ~~Semite~~ people were cruel, but the Phoenecians led the world in cruelty, and the Carthageans were the masters of every ^{kind} ~~form~~ of cruelty in the Phoenecian family.

The City state in time became very wealthy, and as wealth increased, they formed one of the strangest governments this world has ever seen- it was an oligarchy based entirely on wealth, ^{No} ~~man~~ ^{rule} of science good character or military ability had any share in the government; it was controlled entirely by the wealthy class; the wealthy families combined together and formed a council of 100 men who were to all intents and purposes the government of Carthage; these men were not elected by the people who actually had no voice in governmental affairs, but were elected and selected ^{member} by themselves, thereby perpetuating their own ~~rule~~ indefinitely; When a ~~member~~ ^{XXXXX} of the Council died, his place was immediately filled by the remaining members, so that at all times they maintained an iron control over the government; this council was responsible neither to the state nor to the people - in fact it was the state itself; We can imagine today what a terrible condition must have prevailed for the average citizen, for we know now that there cannot be a more brutal form of government than one that is based on wealth and greed, for these two go hand in hand, and wherever wealth has political power, greed and brutality step in and take possession.

The Council controlled everything by the fact that it controlled the money of the state. The fleets were built and managed by the state; all admirals and captains were responsible to the Council only, and all political appointments were also made by the council in order to control all parts of the government structure even down to the simplest officials; the army of the state was not composed of ^{Carthaginians} ~~Carthageans~~, but was filled entirely by mercenary soldiers, who were ^{bought} ~~brought~~ from the surrounding neighboring princes and countries, like so many cattle, and this in the end destroyed Carthage; for it is a fact that you can buy a man's sword and blood, but you cannot buy his iron loyalty. This quality, the finest in all men, can only be given by man himself through a fine inner sense of devotion and love of country; the mass of the Carthageans made poor soldiers, as all avaricious men, are as a rule cowardly; the love of gold and the greed for gain usually destroy the fire of a man's patriotism and manly courage.

All generals and officers of the army were appointed by the Council and were held to a strict accountability for their every action, and so peculiarly brutal was the minds of the members of the Council, that the commanding generals as a rule met death by ^{assassination} ~~assassination~~ or public execution, were they successful or not, for if they were successful, they met death, because

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the ^{council} ~~council~~ feared they might become ambitious, and try to seize some part of the political or military power, if on the other hand, the general was defeated in a battle, he was, for making a failure of his campaign, put to death; in any case the life of an officer in their army was neither a ~~safe~~ safe nor a pleasant one. The only thing in favor of the officers was that in time of war they could plunder to their heart's content, provided they turned over a good part of the plunder to the Council.

One can readily observe from this that the government of Carthage was the lowest, meanest and most debasing rule that any country on earth has ever been cursed with; not only the government itself very bad, but it was cursed with a religion and a priesthood that was even worse, if that was possible; it was in fact a terrible trinity, a greedy government a frightful religion and a priesthood inhumanly cruel.

The rule of Carthage did not have one single redeeming feature- it was all bad and if possible, one part was worse than the other; their religion was based entirely on the Phoenecian God Bal, and the worship of Bal was at all times attended by human sacrifice usually by burning; there was set up in Carthage a great brass image of the god which was hollow inside with a grated furnace below, and a door opened into the furnace which was placed in the God's belly, and the victims were cast into the fiery furnace below through that door; the usual yearly human sacrifice was made by the priests selecting some young man, or maid, usually good looking and a member of one of the best families, and these were emolliated on the sacrificial altar of the bloody god Bal; one can imagine what prestige and power this privilege gave the priesthood, and in what abject terror they were held, and observe the power it gave the priests to avenge any injury or slight they may have imagined any one had put upon them; to punish an enemy or to satisfy a hateful, spite against any citizen, it was only necessary for the priests to suggest any certain boy or girl, and they were condemned to ^{the} death by fire. Can one imagine what the priests ~~became~~ with this dreadful power in their hands, and belonging to the most cruel race of men, is it any wonder that they reached the profoundest depths of inhuman cruelty of which the world has a record; so at the very zenith of their power, we observe a wealthy powerful state with a cold despotic government; a frightful religion, with a cold blooded, brutal priesthood, the people practically ^{slaves} ~~slaves~~, no liberty or pleasure, except what the state permitted, and for the plain citizen, no hope in this world, or the next.

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That was the state of affairs when Carthage came into conflict with the other great power of that age- the Roman Republic; one of them Carthage on the Coast of Africa, the other Rome on the ^{coast} ~~mount~~ of Europe, and that conflict was without doubt the grandest drama in the history of the world; so stupendous, are the events in this grand drama, that even today it is a fine study in human nature, and the difference in character of these two great peoples; to study this gigantic crash between these two so different kinds of men and governments, is the very best lesson in history;

While the conflict between these two countries was very slow in coming to a head, yet the conflict itself was inevitable, for no two such divergent powers could for over long keep from clashing at that period, especially ^{when} one of those countries was governed almost entirely by greed; at the time this conflict started, Carthage possessed the wealth, and the most political cunning and guile, while Rome had the iron and its free citizens, were without doubt the most dauntless, courageous race of men, the world has known before or even since that period of time; the cause of the beginning of the first Punic war is not of the slightest interest, for when two great nations prepare for war, any pretext however, trivial, is sufficient to fan the flames. In this case Carthage desiring to expand, cast its eye on the Island of Sicily, lying between Carthage and Rome, and attempted slowly, yet gradually to take forcible possession; Rome foreseeing this a menace to its ~~and~~ security made this a pretext for beginning hostilities; the two nations had now come to grips.

The first Punic War was not decisive, a ^{Roman} ~~Roman~~ army commanded by Regulus landed in Africa, and after some successes was defeated in a pitch battle- the strategy of the battle being conducted by a Spartan soldier named Xanthipus, the Roman soldiers and Regulus himself were made prisoners, and both sides realized that no decision could be arrived at; We now record a peculiar trait in Carthaginian character; wishing to put an end to the war, Carthage decided to send a peace embassy to Rome, and persuaded Regulus to accompany the Embassadors on their journey, but making him pledge his oath to return to Carthage, should the Embassy prove unsuccessful; upon arriving at Rome, the Embassadors presented their terms of peace, but Regulus advised the Roman Senate to pursue with exterminating vengeance Carthage and Carthaginians; the Embassy being ~~unsuccessful~~ unsuccessful, decided to return to Carthage. and Regulus declared his intention of returning with them, and although all Rome pleaded with him to break the unfair oath, he would not listen, but re-

turned to Carthage and was put to the torture and death: From some defect in their nature, the Carthaginians could not understand the natural nobility of a good and brave man, and instead of treating him as a brave, truthful foe, they put him to death in the most shameful manner possible;

A peace of sorts was finally patched up, but all knew it would be only a temporary arrangement, and both sides began to make preparation for the real conflict which was sure to follow when either side was prepared; the time finally arrived when both nations considered themselves strong enough to renew the struggle, and Sicily was again the cause. Carthage attacked some of ^{Rome's} ~~Rome's~~ allies in Sicily, and Rome went to their assistance, and immediately they were engaged in the second Punic War.

At this time in Carthage, there was ^{a family} named Barca, translated the Lightning, at the head of the family was Hamilcar, who had two renowned sons, Hannibal and Hasdrubal; when his two sons arrived at their majority, the father took them into the temple of Bal and on the altar of the god. made them take an undying oath of hatred against Rome, and all Romans; when the second Punic War broke out, the brothers were commanding the Troops of Carthage in Spain, which was then a province of Carthage. Hannibal one of the best soldiers of all time, decided the best way to win the war, was to attack the very heart of Rome itself, so he started on a grand adventure.

Forming a powerful army of his own soldiers with a numerous body of Spanish allies, he marched north through Spain, then through the southern part of Gaul, and finally through the passes of the Alps, debouched upon the northern plains of Italy; the Romans prepared to meet him with a fine well equipped army, commanded by one of the ~~Consuls~~ Consuls of that year, but to the surprise of Rome, Hannibal defeated the Roman Army, and practically annihilated it.

The causes of this terrible defeat we know; in the first place Hannibal was a grand master of strategy and tactics, and had a herd of fighting elephants which broke the steady infantry, and a numerous well-trained African Cavalry, so the Roman Army was taken by surprise and a bloody defeat was the result; at once Rome placed another powerful army in the field, and they sought Hannibal, and Hannibal was only too glad to be found, and when they joined at Cannae, they met a still more disastrous defeat - in fact few Roman soldiers escaped with their lives from this stricken field.

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Rome stricken to the very heart, called in its third reserves to the field, and still with undaunted courage the citizens formed ranks, again a splendid army went to the field, and again disaster fell on Roman arms. for the third army was defeated as decisively as the others; Rome was now filled with consternation- it looked like Hannibal would now attack Rome itself, and Rome once captured, would mean the end of ^{the} Roman Republic, and the end of the liberty of the Roman citizens ~~forever~~ ^{forever}; Hannibal did indeed march on Rome, and is said to have rode ~~an~~ horseback closed to the very gates of the City, but to his surprise, he found the City very strongly fortified- the walls fully manned by well armed soldiers, and he saw at once that he could not carry Rome by assault, nor did he have sufficient means to lay siege to this strongly fortified City, so reluctantly he turned his back on Rome, and proceeded to lay waste the whole country.

For several years a strange warfare was carried on; Hannibal was free to move about as he pleased to any part of Italy, so he marched his army from one end of the country to the other; no army daring to give battle; the Roman Generals had learned that they were no match for Hannibal in the field, so their strategy was to keep him surrounded ~~as far as~~ ^{ever} they possibly could without coming to blows; so when Hannibal moved, a Roman army followed him, and at each halt, the Roman Army fortified their camp, so that Hannibal could not force them into an engagement in the field; in the meantime the Roman Scouts and light Cavalry could destroy his forage parties, capture stragglers, and prevent his scouring the country for supplies, this strategy finally forced Hannibal to locate his army in southern Italy on the sea-coast, which would enable him to obtain men and supplies from Carthage.

While this would enable him to supply his army with everything they needed, it did not help him to win the war, as his operations were now confined to a small part of Southern Italy only, and Roman Armies were now occupying the ground, his armies had conquered in three mighty battles, besides the war had by this time been going on for seventeen years; Carthage was becoming tired of the terrible cost, and as Hannibal continually asked for more men ~~and~~ money, and supplies, the government ordered him to make one more strong effort to crush Rome; Hannibal then decided on another piece of grand strategy, his Brother Hasdrubal, was in Spain with a large army, and Hannibal ordered his brother to join him with all his forces, take his same route through Southern Gaul, then to unite the two armies, fall on the Romans with this united strength

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crush the Roman Armies in the field, and bring the war to a successful conclusion once and for all time.

Hasdrubal obeying Hannibal's orders, gathered together all of his troops, and started to Hannibal's assistance; the Roman Scouts and spies learned of these movements, and immediately preparations were made to counter-check them; two Consuls were elected yearly by the Roman Senate, both took the field, one of them with a powerful army, held Hannibal penned up in Southern Italy, while the other took the field against Hasdrubal; and now a wise plan of Roman strategy put an end to all of Hannibal's dreams of conquest; the Consul opposing Hannibal conceived the bold design of making a rapid, secret night march with the greater part of his forces, joining his colleague, holding Hasdrubal in check, falling upon Hasdrubal with their united armies, and destroying him before Hannibal could learn of it in time to check-mate this move of the Roman Consuls.

This piece of strategy worked to perfection; on a dark midnight the larger part of the Roman Army silently broke camp, and marched northward, enough of the army was left in camp to ^{deceive} ~~deceive~~ Hannibal, the same number of campfires were lit, the same number of sentinels manned the ramparts of the camp, trumpets were blown, the troops were drilled the same as if the whole Roman Army remained in his presence; so Hannibal waited for news from his brother, which he was never to receive, for Hasdrubal's dispatches to Hannibal, telling of his plans were captured with a courier by a patrol of Roman Scouts, and the brother's plans were fully made known to the Roman Consuls.

The Roman Army marching at top speed, joined the Northern Army in a very short time, and the united armies were the best force Rome had placed in the field in many a year; on the night of the arrival of the new forces, Hasdrubal became very uneasy, hearing strange noises and strange movements, also new trumpet calls, he suspected what had occurred, and called a council of his officers to see if they could find means of beating a retreat, but that was impossible, the Roads were in a wretched condition, the guides were very unreliable, supplies ~~was~~ of all kinds were running low, and under those conditions, retreat would have become a disaster, so Hasdrubal, decided to give battle.

In the morning the Roman Army was in battle array, ready for the assault, and at last all were confident of victory; all remembered the terrible defeats suffered by Roman Arms, and the whole force was eager

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for revenge, and to wipe out the stigma of defeat, which in the past had cost Rome dearly in men, and in the ravishment of the fair fields of Italy; Hasdrubal drew up his army as usual, elephants in front to break the Roman infantry, Spanish infantry in the center, and the Cavalry on the flanks, but this battle was settled at once, nothing could withstand the charge of the Romans; the elephants were killed at once, the infantry cut to pieces, and the cavalry put to route in short order; Hasdrubal in despair, saw his army crushed, and in a state of desperation charged at the head of his troops and lost his life on the field of battle; The Carthaginian Army was annihilated; those who escaped the stricken field, became fugitives, a great many were taken prisoners, and all of the camp and military stores fell into the hands of the conquerors.

At once the victorious army marched south, and in a short time reached the camp before Hannibal's position; up to this time Hannibal had not heard from his brother, but on the night of the arrival of the Roman Army in camp, he became suspicious that something was wrong; in the morning a Roman Centurian with a trumpeter appeared at the gate of Hannibal's camp, and blew the blast on his trumpet, demanding a parley, and when Hannibal after leaving his tent appeared before the two, the Centurian hurled an object over the gate which rolled to Hannibal's feet, and when he looked down, he beheld the severed head of his brother, and for the first time, Hannibal gave way to despair; gazing upon his brother's features he murmured " Carthage thou art doomed."

This practically put an end to the war in Italy- neither of these armies could successfully storm the others camp, so they remained in their respective positions, watching each other closely, seeking a false move that would give one or the other some advantage, but nothing happened; and now another man appears, and this man changes the whole course of the war, and the whole course of history; this man was Scipio called Major, for he was the first of two Roman Commanders who finally conquered Carthage; Scipio had been successfully leading the Roman armies in Spain, and was finally elected ~~Senate~~ Consul for the year. He hurriedly travelled to Rome, and demanded permission of the Senate to embark his army for Africa, and attack Carthage itself. The Senate ~~after~~ after some delay gave its consent and Scipio made his preparations.

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He gathered together a fine army, ample stores, and a large fleet of transports, and sailed for Africa; Upon landing in Africa near Carthage, he disembarked his army, built a fortified camp and then proceeded to lay waste the entire country; Carthage at once sent a strong army to attack him, but this army and its general were no match for Scipio, who by guile, and wise strategy, signally defeated them in a pitched battle; the Council in terror now ordered Hannibal to leave Italy at once with all of his troops and return to defend Carthage from the new peril, threatening the very existence of the nation.

This was the second terrible blow Hannibal had received, for he well knew that once he evacuated Italy, he would never be able to put his ~~foot~~ ^{foot} on its soil again, and all of his great victories, and his seventeen years of strenuous labors would come to naught, and yet he had to obey the orders of the Council of 100, so sorrowfully he gave the order, and all of his forces remaining in Italy embarked on the transports for Carthage; When Hannibal with his army arrived at Carthage, the Council at once ^{placed} ~~gave~~ him in Supreme Command of all of its available forces, and after all necessary preparations he set forth with a large army to find Scipio, defeat him, and save his country from a shameful peace, for he well knew if the Romans won, the terms Rome would offer, would be very hard.

The two armies met at Zama, a small town mid-way between Carthage and the Roman camp, and there was fought the most decisive battle in ancient history; Scipio was a calm, cold calculating man, and one who had genius enough to see the errors of past Roman tactics, and to observe closely the means used by Hannibal to win his victories. Hannibal used his elephants in his first charge to break the enemies front, and then sending his infantry through the broken ranks; to check this attack, Scipio made his front ranks flexible, and when the elephants charged at a mad gallop, the cohorts opened up, formed lanes, and drove the elements through the lanes, the front ranks closing when they were through, and the light infantry then slaughtered the elephants, and eliminated that great danger; these tactics worked to perfection at Zama; Hannibal made his charge, his elephants were destroyed, and to his utter amazement, the Roman infantry advanced in solid formation, and smashed his center; in the meantime the Nubian Cavalry, allies of Rome, attacked and put to flight, Hannibal's Cavalry, and the Carthaginian Army was utterly defeated and put to rout.

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Hannibal fled the stricken field, and returned to Carthage, and addressing the Council of 100, told them boldly Carthage was conquered, and he compelled them to accept any terms Scipio might offer; this was a bitter pill for the Council to swallow, but they had no other alternative, and so sent an embassy to Scipio to sue for peace; Scipio's terms were very severe¹ Carthage had to surrender all arms, all engines of war; elephants and warships, and besides had to pay the entire cost of the war; also all of the Carthaginian colonies had to be surrendered to Rome. This tripped Carthage of all political and military power, and confined the nation to the City itself and a very small surrounding territory. This was the results of the second Punic war.

After peace was restored, one man in the Roman Senate kept the flame of ~~hatred~~ towards Carthage constantly in the minds of the Romans- this was Cato the Censor, who after every speech he made, said the fateful "Carthage must be destroyed." ; this went on for several years, and in the meanwhile Carthage again gained in commerce and wealth, the merchants and sailors retaining their skill in business, and it looked like Carthage would again become a menace to Roman security, so the Roman Senate decided to destroy Carthage completely; the Senate went about this by continually adding new demands and new restrictions to the liberty of Carthage, and the demands soon becoming more severe than they could bear, Carthage finally declared war, and the last conflict between Carthage and Rome, the third Punic war began.

The Roman army sailed for Carthage, and laid siege to the City. It was bravely defended and for a long time, it looked like the city could not be taken, but a new general was appointed ~~was appointed~~ by the Senate to command the Roman Army. This was another Scipio Called Minor, a grand ~~xxxxx~~ son by adoption of the Scipio who defeated Hannibal; Scipio Minor was another very gifted soldier, he quickly discovered the military weakness of the defenses of Carthage and finally by strategy and courage, carried the City by assault;

Then began a grand massacre of the soldiers and inhabitants of Carthage; the Senate's orders were that no one should be spared, and the whole population must be destroyed. This order was carried out, and then began the real destruction of the City. All the buildings were torn down and destroyed; the ~~sight~~ ^{site} of the City level

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ed off and ~~in~~ within a year's time, plows were run over the entire
site of the City to prove the destruction ^{was complete.} ~~of the City.~~

Thus perish Carthage and the main body of the Phoenecian race, the fall of Tyre and the destruction of Carthage sounded the deathknell of Phoenecian government, and as a nation in history, they have ceased to exist since the fall of Carthage, and even their language has disappeared.

If Rome had done no other good in the world, its destruction of Carthage alone would have justified its existence, for had Carthage been the victor, civilization would have been practically destroyed, almost all nations and men would have become slaves to a vicious money power, and all men know that a government controlled by wealth is the meanest, most vicious and tyrannical that man can devise; the victory of the Romans paved the way to good government, civilization and to a semblance of liberty to the average man.

The fall of Carthage put an end to the great God Bal, for the worship of this Phoenecian made God ceased when Carthage disappeared, and best of all, the villainous, ~~vicious~~, cruel, bloodthirsty priests of Bal were wiped off the face of the earth. If that had been the only benefit from the Roman victory, the cost to Rome would be well-worth the price; to the balance of the world. in securing peace and a better knowledge of good government; the destruction of the God Bal, and of its priesthood, was one of the greatest blessings conferred on humanity by the grand Republic of Rome.