

**RELIGION AND THE  
HIGHER  
LIFE, PP. 1-182**

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Religion and the Higher Life, pp. 1-182 by William Rainey Harper

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**WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER**

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**RELIGION AND THE HIGHER LIFE**

# RELIGION AND THE HIGHER LIFE

BY

WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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1905

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TO MY FATHER AND MOTHER  
IN HONOR OF  
THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THEIR MARRIAGE

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## PREFACE

THERE have been gathered together in this volume some of the talks, more or less informal, which it has been my privilege to address in these last years to companies of young men and women, particularly students. Three of these papers have been published before.

The topics are those that all young men and women are compelled to consider, whether they will or not. I have not supposed that in these talks any new thought was presented. I have felt, however, that something perhaps was accomplished, if a fair consideration of the old thought might be secured.

I am more confident today than ever before that the universities and colleges are not performing their full function in the matter of religious education. There is need of a reconsideration of this whole subject. Who will undertake the task? Meanwhile, the least one can do is to present to the students of each scholastic period of four or five years the practical questions of the religious life.

Do I think that anyone was really helped by these talks? Some have acknowledged that they received help; but this acknowledgment was made, perhaps, only as a matter of courtesy. In any case, I have in this way discharged in a measure a respon-

sibility which has weighed upon me more heavily than any other connected with the office which I have been called to administer.

This fact brings comfort to me, if to no one else. And yet I have noticed that, with each recurring year, it has required a greater effort on my part to undertake this kind of service. I have asked myself whether, as a matter of fact, it was growing more and more difficult to deal with subjects of this kind in a university atmosphere? Perhaps someone will answer this question. It is quite certain that there are many who will be interested in the answer.

Those who know my father and mother, and their lifelong interest not only in the religious life, but in higher education, will approve my desire to acknowledge this interest, as it has manifested itself in connection with my own life, by inscribing to them this small collection of "talks to students."

WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1904.

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