

**SIX THEOSOPHIC
POINTS AND
OTHER WRITINGS**

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Six theosophic points and other writings by Jakob Böhme & John Rolleston Earle

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JAKOB BÖHME & JOHN ROLLESTON EARLE

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SIX THEOSOPHIC POINTS
AND OTHER WRITINGS

By JACOB BÖHME
NEWLY TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH BY
JOHN ROLLESTON EARLE, M. A.



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AUTHOR'S PREFACE TO THE READER

WE have written this work, not for the irrational animals who, in their exterior, have the form of man, but in their image, in spirit, are evil and wild beasts, which is disclosed and exhibited by their properties; but for the image of man, for those who are budding forth out of the animal image with a human image that belongs to God's kingdom, and who would fain live and grow in the human image, in the right man. Those who are often and much hindered by the contrarious life, and thus are involved in the mixed life, and travail in desire for the birth of the holy life: for them are these writings written. And we bid them not regard it as impossible to discern and to know such mystery; and we give them this to consider of in a similitude. Let them imagine a life which is the outcome and growth of all lives, and is mixed. But let them also imagine another life to grow in it from all the lives, which, though it had grown from all the lives, was free from all the other lives, and yet possessed all the essential properties of those lives. This other new life (let them imagine) is illuminated with the light, and only in itself; so that it could behold all the other lives, and they (the other lives) could not see nor apprehend the new life. Thus is every one,

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who, out of the mixed life, evil and good, is born again in and of God. This new image, born in the life of God, beholds all the natural lives, and nothing is strange or difficult to it; for it beholds only its root from which it grew. As a fair flower grows out of the rough earth, which is not like the earth but declares by its beauty the power of the earth, and how it is mixed of good and evil; so also is every man, who, out of the animal, wild, earthly nature and quality, is born again so as to become the right image of God.

For those who are a growth of such a kind, and are shooting forth into the fair lily in the kingdom of God, and are in process of birth, have we written this book; that they should strengthen their essences therein, bud in the life of God, and grow and bear fruit in the tree of paradise. And seeing all the children of God grow in this tree, and each is a twig of this same tree, we have wished to impart to our twigs and fellow-branches in our tree, in which we all are, and from which we all grow, our sap, savour and essence, that our tree of paradise may become great, and that we may rejoice one with another. And we would urge all children, who are thus growing in this tree, friendly to ponder that each branch and twig helps to shelter the other from the storm, and we commend ourselves unto their love and growth.

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