

# **THE HYMNS OF HERMES, VOL. II**

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The Hymns of Hermes, vol. II by G. R. S. Mead

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**G. R. S. MEAD**

**THE HYMNS OF  
HERMES, VOL. II**



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Under this general title it is proposed to publish a series of small volumes, drawn from, or based upon, the mystic, theosophic and gnostic writings of the ancients, so as to make more easily audible for the ever-widening circle of those who love such things, some echoes of the mystic experiences and initiatory lore of their spiritual ancestry. There are many who love the life of the spirit, and who long for the light of gnostic illumination, but who are not sufficiently equipped to study the writings of the ancients at first hand, or to follow the labours of scholars unaided. These little volumes are therefore intended to serve as introduction to the study of the more difficult literature of the subject, and it is hoped that at the same time they may become for some, who have, as yet, not even heard of the Gnosis, stepping-stones to higher things.

G. R. S. M.



## HYMNS OF HERMES

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The references in this volume are to the recently-published work—*Thrice Greatest Hermes: Studies in Hellenistic Theosophy and Gnosis. Being a Translation of the Extant Sermons and Fragments of the Trismegistic Literature, with Prolegomena, Commentaries and Notes*, 3 vols. (London, 1906).

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## THE HYMNS OF HERMES.

### THE SERVICE OF SONG.

Clement of Alexandria tells us that the whole of the religious philosophy—that is, the wisdom, discipline and multifarious arts and sciences—of the Egyptian priesthood was contained in the Books of Hermes, that is of Thoth. These Books, he informs us further, were classified under forty-two heads and divided into a number of groups according to the various septs or divisions of the priests.

In describing a certain sacred ceremonial—a procession of priests in their various orders—Clement tells us that it was headed by a representative of the order of Singers, who were distinguished by appropriate symbols of music, some of which apparently were carried in the