

**AN ESSAY  
TOWARD FAITH**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649376155

An essay toward faith by Wilford L. Robbins

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**WILFORD L. ROBBINS**

**AN ESSAY  
TOWARD FAITH**



## An Essay Toward Faith

BY  
WILFORD L. ROBBINS, D.D.

DEAN OF THE CATHEDRAL  
OF ALL SAINTS, ALBANY

NEW EDITION

LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.

91 AND 93 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK  
LONDON AND BOMBAY

1905

Copyright, 1900, by  
LONGMANS, GREEN, AND Co.

U. S. 1045

First Edition, March, 1900  
Reprinted November, 1900  
January, 1901  
December, 1904

102

Press of J. J. Little & Co.  
Astor Place, New York

One whose simplicity and sincerity have been the best exponent of the life of faith,—as his friendship has been the unfailing source of inspiration and joy.



“ Now faith may be thus understood ; it is that power by which a man gives himself up to anything, seeks, wills, adheres to, and unites with it, so that his life lives in it, and belongs to it. Now to whatever the soul gives itself up ; whatever it hungereth after ; and in which it delights, and seeks to be united ; there, and there only is its faith ; that faith which can work either life or death, and according to which faith, everything is, and must be done to man.”

WILLIAM LAW.

*This little book has a purely practical aim. It tells of a path along which one man has found help; and if one, why not others? It is not a reasoned treatise, rather a series of hints. If it possess aught of logical argument it is certainly not logic which would pass muster in the schools. It assumes certain premises with no attempt to justify them,—God and the soul, the longing of the soul for God, its utter unrest until it find Him. To him who doubts of these the book can make no appeal. It may be that there is much of paradox in the following pages, but he who is affrighted at seeming contradiction will never push far into the realm of Divine Truth. The higher a truth the less is it patient of earth's petty consistencies, our most intimate experiences assure us of this. Love,*

*even in its more earthly aspects, is not to be caught in the trammels of any logical definition. Love proves to us that we may know what we cannot explain. We may sometimes come closer to reality by means of broadly conflicting statements, which can only be fused in the fire of the soul's activity, than by any careful process of excision whereby words are brought into superficial harmony. It may be doubted whether we have not been too much enamoured of negations. Perhaps mutually exclusive propositions are rarer than we have been wont to think. The soul called to a life of radical independence may at the same time find its freedom in the humblest regard for precedent. Private judgment and deference for authority may be perfectly compatible in the spiritual sphere, to deny either may be to thwart the highest emprise of faith. Novel phrases and traditional doctrines may in all honesty find utterance on the same lips. Of course there will always be a certain number of men who are so convinced of the comprehensive exactitude*