

GODS AND THEIR MAKERS

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Gods and their makers by Laurence Housman

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LAURENCE HOUSMAN

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THEIR MAKERS**

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BY

LAURENCE HOUSMAN



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JOHN LANE: THE BODLEY HEAD
LONDON AND NEW YORK

1897

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Preface

TO AGNES A. F. PARISS

RESPONSIBLE FIRST READER,— *Since the day when I left the MS. in your hands, and heard your laughter coming to me from the next room, this story has claimed you for its godmother. If that was not five years ago, I fear it must have been six,—a large slice from the years of one's youth, when hope is looking hungrily ahead.*

Since then its occupation has been either that of a lie-a-bed, or of a wanderer upon the face of the earth; and its author would have been persuaded into bashfulness and an overwhelming sense of its demerits, had not your second reading assured him that it had not staled to your liking.

To cry up or depreciate his own wares is the part of his duties which an author may leave to his critics or his friends. I would only say that now, when this leaves me with all the rawness of an obstinately preserved youth, its power of still cajoling you to laughter is chiefly responsible for its leap into publicity. Can there be others like-minded, and as kind-minded towards it as you? The book goes to ask the question.

L. H.

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Gods, and their Makers

CHAPTER I

Heart to the heart of the god
Timed, as his heart-beats taught me ;
Hands obeying his hands
On chords that crashed at his nod :
Thus was the measure divine
Wrung forth, and the full fire caught me :
And my blood, to his lips, grew wine,
And my bones, to the burning, brands.

The School of Music.

INTO Peeti's soul had come the vision of his god. In the midst of the night-watches, with eyes straining at the shuffling darkness, he had beheld it; and as his mental appetite took its bite of the unknown, the divine form grew in clearness and definition. With feet planted within