

**GREAT SAVIORS OF
THE WORLD. VOL. I;
PP.16-176**

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Great Saviors of the World. Vol. I; pp.16-176 by Swâmi Abhedânanda

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SWĀMI ABHEDĀNANDA

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Great Saviors of the World

VOL. I.

BY

SWÂMI ABHEDÂNANDA

*Author of "Self-Knowledge," "Divine Heritage of Man,"
"India and Her People," "How to Be a Yogi," etc.*



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DEDICATED
TO THE
LOTUS FEET
OF THE
GREAT SAVIORS OF ALL NATIONS.

"O Lord! As rivers rising from different mountains run crooked or straight toward one ocean, so all special religions, rising from various standpoints, run crooked or straight toward Thee—the Infinite Ocean of Existence, Intelligence, Bliss and Love."

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religion which still claims millions of votaries scattered all over the world. They find peace and consolation by following the path of Moses, and expect through his instructions to receive salvation after death.

The power and greatness which were displayed by him were not his own; but they came direct from the Supreme fountain-head of all powers and greatness. Moses himself was but an instrument in the hands of the Almighty Yahveh. Shall we then wonder why the Jewish people reverentially worship the memory of their master, honor and regard him as the greatest prophet of their Lord; and why they do not recognize any other prophet as greater than, or even equal to, the founder of Judaism? No, it is the natural outcome of the gratitude and devotion which a nation must have for its leader, benefactor, law-giver and Savior.

As the Jews owe to Moses their moral, spiritual and religious ideals of the higher life, so the Iranians or Parsees are indebted to their great prophet Zoroaster; the Chinese to Confucius and Lâo-Tze; the Christians to

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Christ; the Buddhists to Buddha; the Arabs to Mahomet, and the Hindus to their Saviors. Each one of these was a leader and a law-giver to the people among whom he was born. Each one was a messenger of the Supreme Lord of the universe, a prophet and a Savior in one form or another. Each one saw God, communed with Him, received His message, and directed his people. The followers of one may not recognize the prophets and saviors of other Faiths; may not regard them as equal to their own, and may even think that theirs is the only one—the greatest of all; but the truth remains the same. Whether they can see Divinity in other prophets or not, those others are nevertheless messengers of God. Believers in sectarian religions cannot realize that the Lord of the universe manifests Himself among all nations, and in all ages, because their spiritual eyes are blinded by the screen of fanaticism and bigotry, and they have become narrow-minded, illiberal and unspiritual in their views. They are not to be blamed, for they do not possess higher perceptions, and can-

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not see the greatness in all these divine Instruments of God.

Some people think that their forefathers (whether Jew, Parsee, Christian, Mahometan, Chinese, Hindu or Buddhist), were the only ones favored by the Almighty Lord, and consequently the prophet who arose among them was the greatest of all, and the unique Savior of the world. Such ideas are entirely erroneous, for God is the just and impartial Lord of all nations, and not of one particular people. Wherever His manifestation is most needed, there does He send either His messenger, prophet or Incarnation. The difference lies only in the powers of manifestation, but all of them are mighty. If we try to limit the Infinite and All-merciful Being by our narrow ideas and make Him finite, who else but we ourselves will be responsible for it? If we cannot recognize Divinity in the prophets and saviors of other peoples then we have not realized the Divinity in the prophet of our own; we have not, then, understood the eternal truth of "Unity of Godhead behind the variety of names and