

**DIVINE TRANSCENDENCE  
AND ITS  
REFLECTION IN RELIGIOUS  
AUTHORITY: AN ESSAY**

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Divine transcendence and its reflection in religious authority: an essay by J. R. Illingworth

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**J. R. ILLINGWORTH**

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# DIVINE TRANSCENDENCE

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AUTHORITY

AN ESSAY

BY

J. R. HILLINGWORTH, M.A., D.D.

*ὅτι τὸ θεῖον ἀκατάλητον καὶ, διότι καὶ οὐρανοῦ καὶ  
ἐσφραγισμένη οὐρα . . . ἀκατάλητα δὲ θεῖα θεῶν μακρῶν ἢ  
θεῶν θεῶν ἀκατάλητα.*

ARISTOTLE, *Met.*

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1911

## PREFACE

It is now more than twelve years since I published an essay on divine immanence, considered as one aspect of a dual truth which was stated in the following words:—"Christianity, with its correlative doctrines of the Trinity and the Incarnation, laid equal stress both on the transcendence and the immanence of God, or in less technical terms upon His supremacy, and His omnipresence."<sup>1</sup> But in the interval the latter phrase has been frequently employed as though it were an exclusive alternative to the former; with the result that such has come to be its natural meaning and implication for many minds. In other words, it has been diverted from a Christian to a pantheistic use. I have endeavoured, therefore, in the ensuing pages to recall attention to the complementary conception

<sup>1</sup> *Divine Immanence.*

of divine transcendence; as being, from the Christian point of view, presupposed, and not precluded by that of immanence; and further to point out its intimate connection with the note of spiritual, and, in that sense, supernatural authority, which distinguishes the organization, faith, and worship of the Church, and leads to a correlative element of obedience in the character of its members.

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