# THE ORACLE OF YAHVEH: URIM AND THUMMIM, THE EPHOD, THE BREASTPLATE OF JUDGMENT, PP. 1-35 (NOT COMPLETE)

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### **PAUL CARUS**

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### ORACLE OF YAHVEH

URIM AND THUMMIM, THE EPHOD, THE BREASTPLATE OF JUDGMENT

. BY

DR. PAUL CARUS

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LO-PAN OR NET TABLET.
From J. J. M. de Groot, The Religious System of China, Vol. III, Plate XXVI.

#### INTRODUCTION.

THE ancient Hebrews had a method of consulting God by an oracle of lots called "Urim and Thummim," and in connection with it the ephod is mentioned as the utensil of divining.

Though the oracle by the Urim and Thummim played an important part in the ancient history of the people of Israel, its practice fell gradually into disuse. It was first abandoned, presumably as a relic of paganism, and its methods were absolutely forgotten during the Exile, while in the post-Exilic age the loss of it was deeply deplored. Josephus¹ says that two hundred years before his time the Urim and Thummim had ceased to light up, but his statement is based on the very lowest margin, for they are no longer mentioned as being consulted after Solomon's reign.

How much the oracle of the ephod by the Urim and Thummim formed part of Israel's religion previous to the temple reform appears from Hosea<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Antiqu., III, 7.

iii. 4-5.