

# **THE TOUR: A STORY OF ANCIENT EGYPT**

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The tour: a story of ancient Egypt by Louis Couperus

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**LOUIS COUPERUS**

**THE TOUR: A STORY  
OF ANCIENT EGYPT**



## THE TOUR

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

OLD PEOPLE AND THE THINGS THAT PASS

SMALL SOULS

THE LATER LIFE

THE TWILIGHT OF THE SOULS

DR. ADRIAAN

*In Preparation*

THE INEVITABLE.

# THE TOUR

A STORY  
OF ANCIENT EGYPT

BY  
LOUIS COUPERUS

TRANSLATED FROM THE DUTCH BY  
ALEXANDER TEIXEIRA DE MATTOS



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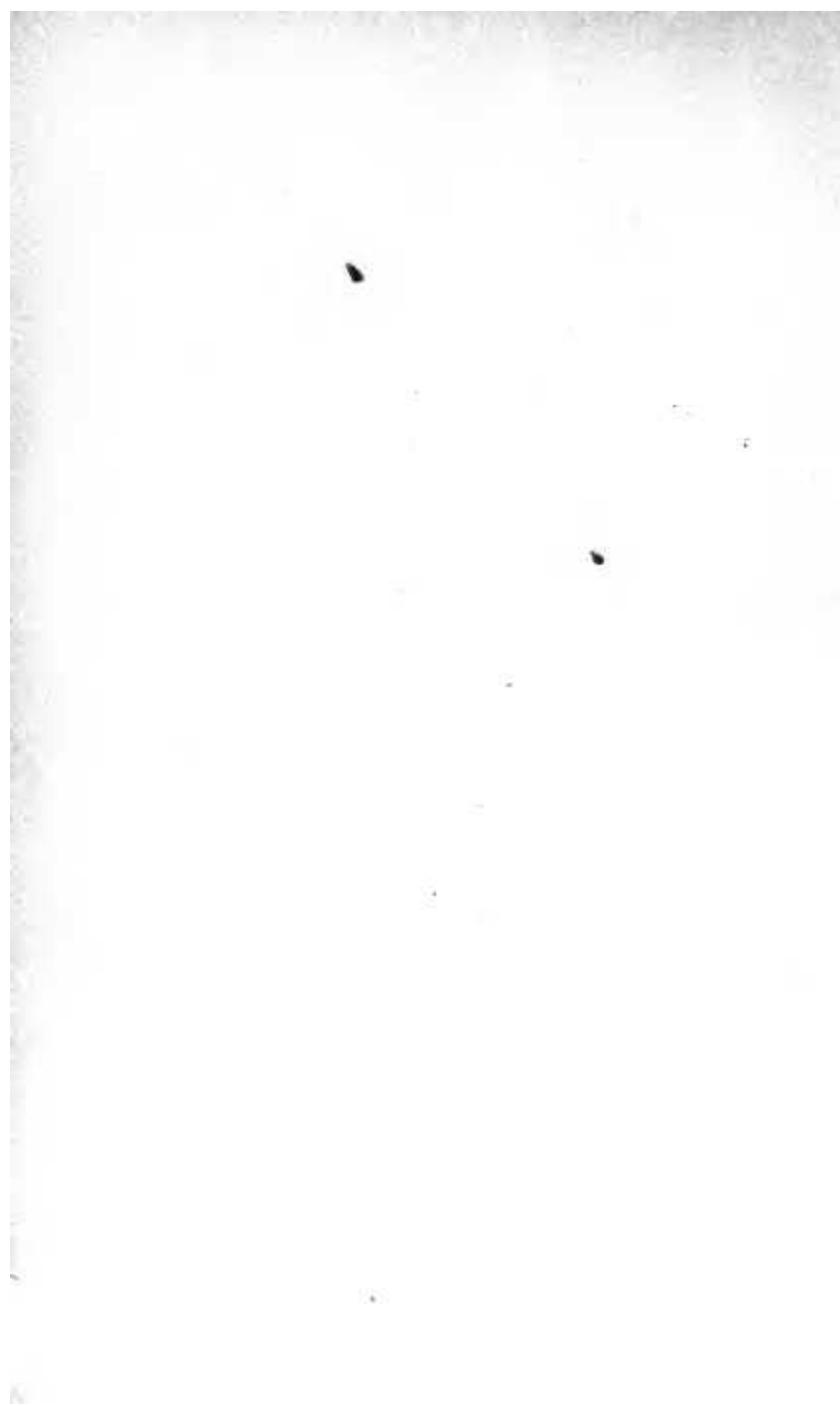
### TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

I am greatly indebted to my friend John Sargeaunt for a number of extremely useful comments and suggestions and to my friend Stephen McKenna for his version of the *Hymn to Aphrodite* in Chapter VII. and for assistance in the translation generally.

A. T. DE M.

CROWBOROUGH, 10 *July*, 1920.

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## THE TOUR

## CHAPTER I

THE night that hung over the sea was windless and blissfully silver-pure after the glowing splendour of the day ; and the great quadrireme glided evenly and softly, as though upon a lake, under a wide firmament of stars. The thin horizon was purely outlined around the oval sea ; and on this wide world there was nothing but the stars and the ship.

But the ship resounded with music. There was the constantly repeated melodious phrase of the three hundred rowers, soft and monotone, in a melancholy minor, with ever the same refrain, after which the boatswain gave out the chant, after which the chorus of rowers again threw back their long, hushed phrase of melancholy, the soft, monotonous accompaniment of the wearying work, the musical encouragement to repeat the same movement of the arms and the same bending of the body over the loins.

This music rose in a mournful swell from the ship's lower deck and harmonizing with