

# **MANUAL OF UNITARIAN BELIEF**

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Manual of Unitarian Belief by James Freeman Clarke

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**JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE**

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UNITARIAN BELIEF**



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**OF**  
**UNITARIAN BELIEF.**

**BY**  
**JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.**

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# MANUAL OF UNITARIAN BELIEF.

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## LESSON I.

### RELIGION NECESSARY TO MAN.

§ 1. RELIGION may be defined as the worship and service of God. It is necessary, because man is feeble, and needs Divine power to give him strength; he is ignorant, and needs Divine light to guide him; he is sinful, and needs Divine mercy to give him peace; he is mortal, and needs faith in things unseen and eternal to give him the hope of continued existence.

§ 2. That religion is natural to man appears from the fact that in a higher or lower form it has been found among all races and nations, among civilized and savage people, in ancient and modern times.

§ 3. The following elements in the soul constitute the basis of religion; namely, the sense of dependence (see § 1); conscience, or the sense of right and wrong, giving the ideas of duty and responsibility; reason, or the faculty which perceives universal and necessary laws; \* aspiration, which tends toward the good, the beautiful, and the true, and is the basis of worship.

§ 4. Natural religion is that which is awakened by the sight of the order and beauty of nature, of its adaptations to

\* In this definition of reason is followed the school of thought represented by such writers as Coleridge, Victor Cousin, and Dr. James Walker, who distinguished "reason," the higher intellectual faculty, from "reasoning," a function of the lower understanding.