

**PHILOSOPHIES ANCIENT  
AND MODERN. EARLY  
GREEK PHILOSOPHY**

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Philosophies Ancient and Modern. Early Greek Philosophy by Alfred William Benn

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**ALFRED WILLIAM BENN**

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EARLY GREEK PHILOSOPHY

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EARLY GREEK  
PHILOSOPHY

By  
ALFRED WILLIAM BENN, B.A.

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## FOREWORD

REFERENCES to authorities, except of the most general kind, are precluded by the plan of the Series to which this Primer belongs. It is, therefore, as well for me to mention that I have gone to the original sources for my materials. The admirable work of Hermann Diels, *Fragmente der Vorsokratiker*, Bd. i., Berlin, 1906, has been most helpful for the præ-Sophistic philosophers. As regards the interpretation of early Greek philosophy I have found no reason to depart from the views given in my *Philosophy of Greece* (1898). At the same time I wish it to be understood that, in my opinion, the very scanty information at our disposal permits no more than a conjectural interpretation of what the Greek philosophers from Thales to Socrates really taught. And it is only fit that the beginner should be told as much on his first introduction to the subject. The great thing is that he should become interested enough in these uncertainties to think that the time spent on them has not been thrown away.

A. W. B.



## CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
I. THE SCHOOL OF MILETUS . . . . .	1
II. THE FIRST METAPHYSICIANS . . . . .	24
III. THE ANALYTICAL PHILOSOPHERS . . . . .	55
IV. THE SOPHISTS . . . . .	83
V. SOCRATES . . . . .	100
WORKS BEARING ON EARLY GREEK PHILOSOPHY	123
INDEX . . . . .	125