

GLEANINGS FROM INDIAN CLASSICS

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Gleanings from Indian classics by Manmatha Nath Dutt

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MANMATHA NATH DUTT

**GLEANINGS FROM
INDIAN CLASSICS**

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*"What mortal now can harm,
Or foemen vex us more
Through thee, beyond alarm
Immortal God, we soar."*

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FROM
INDIAN CLASSICS.

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EDITED BY

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INTRODUCTION.

The Hindus and their Religion are the most misunderstood thing in the modern world. The civilized people of the Western World labour under the notion that the Hindus are a people a little better than the aborigines of Africa and their Religion is no better than the grossest sort of idolatry. The fault does not lie with them. The Hindus are by nature very retiring and modest ; they never thrust themselves upon others,—especially to nations who are in every way different from them. A foreigner, if he passes all his life in India, will never know the autonomy of a Hindu-home ; he will never know their domestic arrangements,—he will never understand what sort of being a Hindu really is ; for a Hindu is too bashful and too modest to defend himself by explaining his religion and morals or manners and customs. They cannot be easily known from their books, for they are written in a language very difficult to master. Thus the popular notion of the Western World is, that the Hindus are semi-aborigines, who worship woods and stones.

But a few of the great scholars of Europe and America have a different notion of the Hindus. This has been done by their study of the Sanskrit