

# **SOLUTION OF THE GREAT PROBLEM**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649280469

Solution of the great problem by Abbé Delloue & E. Leahy

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**ABBÉ DELLOUE & E. LEAHY**

**SOLUTION OF THE  
GREAT PROBLEM**



239

D

Copy 1

**SOLUTION**  
OF  
**THE GREAT PROBLEM**

TRANSLATED BY E. LEAHY

FROM THE FRENCH OF

**ABBÉ DELLOUE**

*Military Chaplain at Soissons*  
*(Past Student of l'École Polytechnique)*

EX LIBRIS  
ST. BASIL'S SCHOLASTICATE

FROM SECOND REVISED FRENCH EDITION

"According as there is a future life or not,  
so must our course of action be shaped."

—PASCAL

**Frederick Hustet Company**

Printers to the Holy Apostolic See and Sacred Congregation of Rites

NEW YORK

CINCINNATI

1917

EX LIBRIS  
ST. BASIL'S SCHOLASTICATE

No. 1542 5/30/36

DEC - 2 1953

**Nihil Obstat.**

ARTHUR J. SCANLAN, D.D.

*Censor.*

**Imprimatur.**

† JOHN CARDINAL FARLEY,

*Archbishop of New York.*

NEW YORK, March 12, 1917.

*Printed in U. S. A.*

*All rights reserved*

Copyright, 1917  
in U. S. and Great Britain  
By FR. PUSTET COMPANY  
NEW YORK AND CINCINNATI

## PREFACE

**T**RUTH is unchanging, but her aspects are endlessly varied, and the manifold minds and hearts of men apprehend her with various degrees and kinds of labor and imperfection. Every teacher of the great fundamental truths of life and eternity must adapt his message to his time and place, must speak the language of a particular auditory. Hence we ought to be prepared to welcome the appearance of a new Manual of Christian Apologetics, and not give way to the recurrent temptation to cry out against the making of new books and the passing over in their favor of old ones. Some of the old ones remain, no doubt, permanently useful; but they never suffice; there is always a real demand, a real place for the new.

There are a few (very few) books good for everybody: there will always be the real demand, the real place, for the special book for the special reader.

The Abbé Delloue in his *Solution du Grand Problème* has provided for his contemporaries and our own a volume which we think will make its home with very many minds and souls. He is a man of wide reading, well grounded in Catholic theology and philosophy and modern science; he is zealous for truth and its diffusion; he has the gift of common sense in an uncommon degree; he writes with eloquence and force. He devotes these gifts to a real and cogent exposition of the main facts concerning human life and destiny; he convinces us of the Catholic "whence" and "whither" and "why" and "how." It enters not into his plan or his scope to answer all difficulties; fools (notoriously) can ask more questions than wise men can answer, and (equally notoriously) the number of fools is infinite. The caviler may find in these pages room for caviling, as he has in the presence of greater teachers. But by the sincere soul, learned or unlearned, this book will, I believe, be valued as good, solid, and thoroughly helpful.

Whatever of specially French reference belongs to the Abbé Delloue's treatise has



## PREFACE

v

been judiciously eliminated by the present translator. It is not the first time she has presented the English-reading public with a version in which the substance and even the aroma of a choice foreign work has been transfused into a new and thoroughly idiomatic vernacular form.

I trust her present work will contribute to a wide diffusion of religious philosophy.

GEORGE O'NEILL, S. J.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

| CHAP.  | PAGE |
|--|------|
| PREFACE . . . . .  | iii  |
| I. THE PROBLEM . . . . .                                     | 1    |
| II. PRACTICAL INDIFFERENCE . . . . .                         | 13   |
| III. THE NECESSITY OF A SOLUTION . . . . .                   | 25   |
| IV. THE MATERIALIST'S SOLUTION . . . . .                     | 36   |
| V. PANTHEISM—SKEPTICISM . . . . .                            | 47   |
| VI. THE EXISTENCE OF GOD—POPULAR<br>PROOFS . . . . .         | 55   |
| VII. THE EXISTENCE OF GOD—SCIENTIFIC<br>PROOFS . . . . .     | 82   |
| VIII. THE EXISTENCE OF GOD—PHILOSOPHICAL<br>PROOFS . . . . . | 115  |
| IX. ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE EXISTENCE OF<br>GOD . . . . .      | 133  |
| X. IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL . . . . .                         | 149  |
| XI. THE FUTURE LIFE . . . . .                                | 162  |
| XII. THE NEED OF REVELATION . . . . .                        | 172  |
| XIII. THE SEARCH FOR REVELATION . . . . .                    | 182  |
| XIV. RELIGIOUS SOLUTIONS . . . . .                           | 203  |
| XV. THE CHRISTIAN SOLUTION . . . . .                         | 214  |
| XVI. THE CHRISTIAN SOLUTION ( <i>Continued</i> ) . . . . .   | 228  |
| XVII. THE CHRISTIAN CONCEPTION OF LIFE . . . . .             | 242  |
| XVIII. WHERE SHALL WE FIND TRUE CHRIS-<br>TIANITY? . . . . . | 256  |
| XIX. CONCLUSION . . . . .                                    | 268  |