

**BACK TO
RELIGION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649165544

Back to religion by Rudolf Eucken

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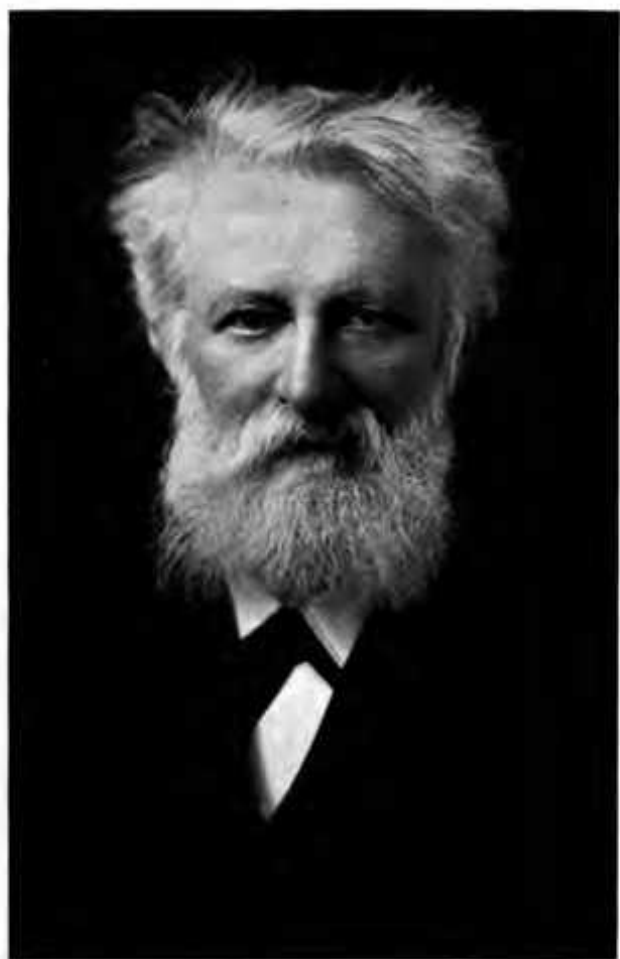
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RUDOLF EUCKEN

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THE PILGRIM PRESS
BOSTON NEW YORK CHICAGO

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BY LUTHER H. CARY

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THE FLIMPTON PRESS
[W.D.O.]
NORWOOD MASS. U.S.A.

BACK TO RELIGION

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HE is but a superficial observer of the times who can think that the movement of life today is altogether against religion, and that only the denial of religion has the spirit of the age with it.

For, certain as it is that blatant denial still holds the public ear and is more and more permeating the masses, yet in the work of the intellect, and likewise in the depths of men's souls, the case is different. Here, with ever greater vigor, is springing up the feeling that religion is indispensable, the yearning for religion. What is understood by religion is often anything but clear, and often very different from the traditional forms of religion; but the demand is unmistakable for more depth of life and for the establish-

ment of profounder inner connections than our visible existence affords. In the spiritual life of the present day, molecular transformations are taking place, inconspicuous at first but constantly increasing, which will eventually burst upon our view, and which will necessarily provoke essential changes in the entire condition of life. Today this movement is still an undercurrent, and on the surface the tide flows in the opposite direction. But more and more the undercurrent is rising to the surface, and unless every indication fails, it will soon come into control.

The most fundamental reason for this tendency may be indicated by a single sentence. It is caused by the increasing dissatisfaction with modern civilization, or at least with those aspects of civilization which now occupy the surface of life. All the splendor of the external successes of civilization cannot hide the fact that it does not satisfy the whole man with his inner needs, and that