

**THE
TRANSMIGRATION
OF SOULS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649746552

The transmigration of souls by D. Alfred Bertholet & H. J. Chaytor

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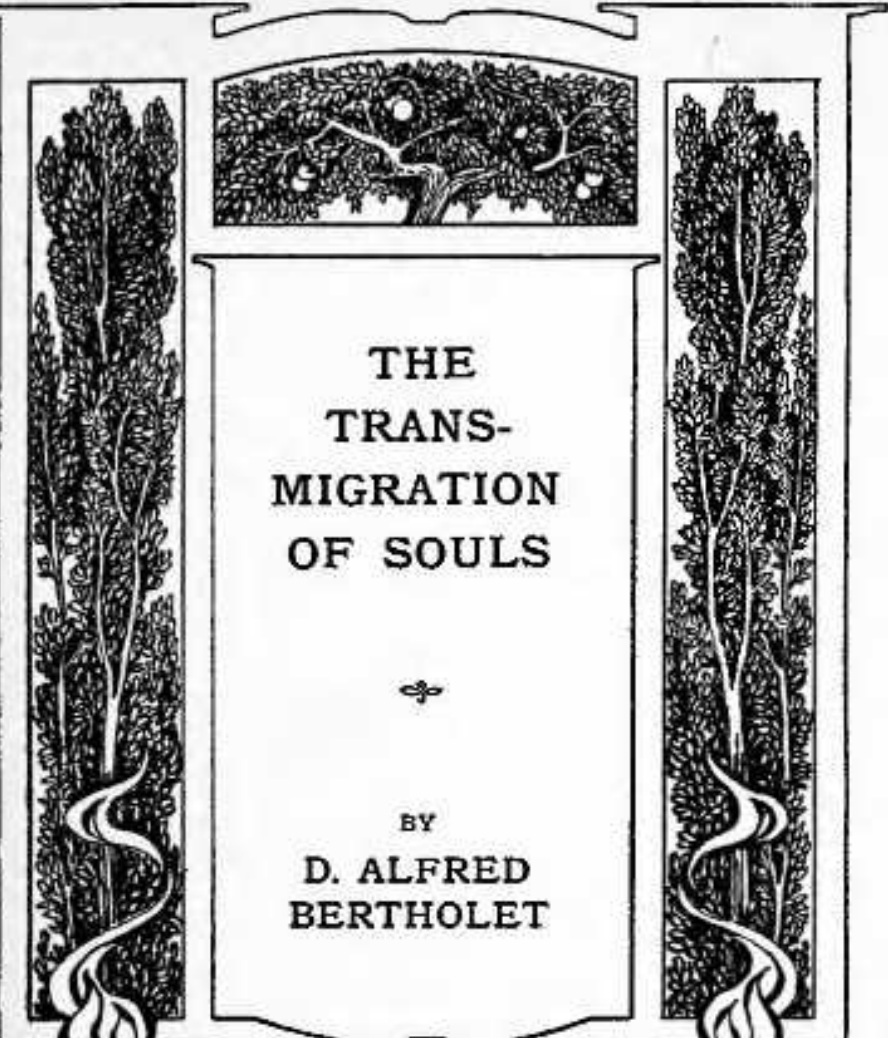
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D. ALFRED BERTHOLET & H. J. CHAYTOR

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The book cover features a decorative border with stylized trees and foliage. At the top center is a tree with several round fruits. On either side are tall, slender trees with dense foliage. At the bottom, there are two more trees with swirling, flame-like bases. The central text is enclosed in a rectangular frame with a decorative top and bottom edge.

THE
TRANS-
MIGRATION
OF SOULS



BY
D. ALFRED
BERTHOLET

The base of the cover features two decorative panels on either side, each with a floral motif and a chain-like element. The central panel is a dark, textured band.

H
&
B

HARPER &
BROTHERS
LONDON & NEW YORK

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&
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THE
TRANSMIGRATION
OF SOULS

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LONDON AND NEW YORK
HARPER & BROTHERS
45 ALBEMARLE STREET, W.

1909

CONTENTS

PART I

IDEAS ANTECEDENT TO THE BELIEF IN METEMPSYCHOSIS

CHAP.	PAGE
I. THE BELIEF THAT THE SOUL CAN BE SEPARATED FROM MAN'S BODY	3
II. THE BELIEF THAT ORGANISMS OTHER THAN HUMAN POSSESS SOULS	10
ANIMAL SOULS	11
PLANT SOULS	17
SOULS IN OTHER MATERIAL OBJECTS	22
III. THE BELIEF IN THE TRANSMIGRATION OF SOULS FROM ONE BEING TO ANOTHER	24
TRANSMIGRATION FROM MAN TO MAN	24
TRANSMIGRATION FROM MEN TO ANIMALS	29
TRANSMIGRATION FROM MEN TO PLANTS	42
TRANSMIGRATION FROM MAN TO INANIMATE OBJECTS	48

PART II

METEMPSYCHOSIS PROPERLY SO CALLED

I. PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS	57
II. METEMPSYCHOSIS AMONG THE CELTS	61

CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
III. METEMPSYCHOSIS IN INDIA	64
VEDIC-BRAHMAN BELIEFS	64
BUDDHIST BELIEFS	72
IV. THE GREEK DOCTRINE OF METEMPSYCHOSIS	79
V. THE BELIEF IN METEMPSYCHOSIS IN OTHER QUARTERS	86
IN THE BIBLE AND IN JUDAISM	86
IN ISLAM	94
IN THE CHRISTIAN WORLD	95
VI. CONCLUSION	119

PART I

IDEAS ANTECEDENT TO THE BELIEF
IN METEMPSYCHOSIS

THREE presuppositions are necessarily antecedent to any belief in the transmigration of souls.

1. The belief that man has a soul which can be separated from his material body.
2. The belief that non-human organisms (animals, plants, and perhaps even inanimate objects) possess souls of like nature.
3. The belief that the souls both of men and of lower organisms can be transferred from one organism to another.

THE TRANSMIGRATION OF SOULS

CHAPTER I

THE BELIEF THAT THE SOUL CAN BE SEPARATED FROM MAN'S BODY

LET us first consider the belief that man has a soul which can be separated from his body, or, to express the idea by a metaphor, that the connection of the soul with the body is that of a guest with a house in which he stays and lives, with the intention of leaving it after a certain lapse of time. So far as we can tell, this idea can be traced to the earliest periods of man's mental history. In modern times the popular conclusion that a "soul" exists, is usually deduced from the phenomena of "thought, perception, and will": man