

**PRIMITIVE SYMBOLISM AS  
ILLUSTRATED IN  
PHALLIC WORSHIP OR THE  
REPRODUCTIVE PRINCIPLE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649436576

Primitive Symbolism as Illustrated in Phallic Worship or the Reproductive Principle by  
Hodder M. Westropp

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)

**HODDER M. WESTROPP**

**PRIMITIVE SYMBOLISM AS  
ILLUSTRATED IN  
PHALLIC WORSHIP OR THE  
REPRODUCTIVE PRINCIPLE**



---

## GENERAL FORLONG'S "RIVERS OF LIFE."

---

GENERAL FORLONG has now given to the public, in two magnificent quarto volumes and chart, the first instalment of his great work on comparative religion, and on the natural evolution of existing faiths, which has been in preparation for the last seven years.

The importance of this work consists in its being the first to apply the result of modern research and learning to the great subject of Asiatic religions in a thoroughly unbiased manner. No one can read the long list of General Forlong's authorities without seeing that he is well up to date in his reading, although he has also consulted many valuable authorities now rarely read, being contained in ponderous and expensive folios. The works of Max Müller, Rhys Davies, Beal, Cox, Sayce, and many other standard authorities on oriental subjects; of Birch and Brugsch, Renouf and Maspero in Egypt, of Hang West and Darmesteter in Persia, together with the latest accounts of travellers in Palestine, in China, in Africa, and America, have all been ransacked for information. General Forlong is generally able to show how little many writers really know of the meaning of the customs, traditions, symbolisms, and superstitions concerning which they write.

The volumes are accompanied by a large separate Chart (price £3), which will be found very useful for students anxious to obtain a clear idea of the relation and antiquity of the different religious systems, and of the constituents of those systems. The various cults of the Tree, the Serpent and Lingam, the Fire, the Ancestor, and the Sun, with the later more spiritual conceptions of deity as a Father and a Spirit, are distinguished by coloured streams; and the student at a glance can see which of these ideas is embraced by any existing creed.

Many valuable data, chronological and physical, mythological and ethnical, are given on the margin of the chart, and all the great Bibles of Asia, and Africa, and Europe, are shown in relative position.

General Forlong's chief claim to speak on these questions lies in the fact that he is not a mere bookworm or compiler but an active explorer, and a student who has visited the sacred places of which he treats, and has received from the lips of living Brahmans and Bikkhus their own interpretation of the symbolism of the ancient Faiths of India. When General Forlong wished to understand Rome or Delphi, Jerusalem or Shechem, he visited those places himself, just as he has visited the famous Indian sites, and as in our own islands, he has studied the ruder stone monuments of England, Scotland, and Ireland on the spot, and by the light of existing remains in India and elsewhere. In cases where he has not so visited the site, he has diligently collected the most recent and authentic information, and with such knowledge of his subjects he combines, as we have seen, a wide reading of the latest and the earliest literature regarding them in some 700 books, many in eight or ten volumes each. The illustrations alone of his work, many of which are admirably bold sketches from the original, are of the greatest value to the student, and his volumes, with their careful indexes, form a storehouse of research and learning, in which future writers might dig long without exhausting material.

---

*Copies may be obtained from the Publisher of the present volume.*

PRIMITIVE SYMBOLISM,

AS ILLUSTRATED IN

PHALLIC WORSHIP.



# PRIMITIVE SYMBOLISM

AS ILLUSTRATED IN

## Phallic Worship

OR

THE REPRODUCTIVE PRINCIPLE

BY

HODDER M. WESTROPP

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

GENERAL FORLONG

F.R.G.S., F.R.S.E., M.A., A.L.C.E., F.R.H.S., F.R.A.S., ETC.,  
AUTHOR OF "RIVERS OF LIFE."

LONDON

GEORGE REDWAY

YORK STREET COVENT GARDEN

M DCCCLXXXV.

*Archib. Bodd. F.*

---





## INTRODUCTION.

THIS work is a *multum in parvo* of the growth and spread of Phallicism, as we commonly call the worship of nature or fertilizing powers. I felt, when solicited to enlarge and illustrate it on the sudden death of the lamented author, that it would be desecration to touch so complete a compendium by one of the most competent and soundest thinkers who have written on this world-wide faith. None knew better or saw more clearly than Mr. Westropp that in this oldest symbolism and worship lay the foundations of all the goodly systems we call Religions; but unfortunately, though writing clearly, he has only left to us short and somewhat detached Essays, this being the longest I have come across. It was, therefore, with deep concern I heard of his death, and saw his perhaps last note pencilled at the end of the proof-sheets—"Confined to bed with a severe attack of dyspepsia."

He read a Paper, which justly attracted much attention, in 1870, before the Anthropological Society, London, in the days when such subjects were then possible, as they are not now, owing to admission of lady members. Mr. J. W. Bouton, of New York, incorporated this in 1875 with Mr. Staniland Wake's valuable Paper of the same period and some others, the whole forming his useful publication entitled *Ancient Symbol Worship in the Religions of Antiquity*. Many of the facts there stated—as true for all time and necessary to show the continuity of the

faith—will be found in the present epitome, our only regret being that this short historical summary does not extend further in time and space as down to these days and islands, indeed to Europe in general, for Mr. Westropp's researches had assured him that if the old worships are now only dimly perceptible it is not yet so with the ancient symbolisms—nay, the tendency has been to amplify these, especially in ecclesiastical architecture, ornamentation, rites, vestments, &c. He appears to have been, from divers causes, averse to drive facts and arguments home into the midst of existing faiths and sacred books, for this is to increase the dislike naturally inherent to the subject, and to wound many of the tenderest emotions of a large class, especially of the more ignorant adherents of our own and other Religions. These cannot distinguish between the religious student of ancient and modern art, tracing the various growths of cults in symbols and rituals, from the sceptic or worse, who has come to pull down the sacred groves and gods, and thus uproot all the cherished feelings with which their holy objects, rites and festivals inspire them. They are willing to smile over the idea of the origin of a church spire or temple minaret, and to laugh at what they think is the mere ingenuity of the inquirer, but they frown when the inquiry goes further, and solid facts are advanced proving that their faith is in every detail a mere evolution of Faiths that preceded it, just as they themselves are of previous men. They are willing to accept from a poetical point of view that "there has been no entirely new religion from the beginning of the world," and from a philological, that our alphabet has evolved from previous alphabets, and these from some scratchings of savage tribes, but not to