

# **THE GOD OF PHILOSOPHY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649172641

The God of philosophy by Francis Aveling

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)

**FRANCIS AVELING**

**THE GOD OF  
PHILOSOPHY**



**Nihil obstat.**

GULIELMUS CANONICUS GILDEA, S.T.D.,  
*Censor deputatus.*

**Imprimatur.**

† GULIELMUS,  
*Episcopus Arundelensis, V.G.*

WESTMONASTERII,  
*die 11 Martii, 1906.*

**THE GOD OF PHILOSOPHY**

# EXPOSITORY ESSAYS IN CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY

*A Series of Volumes dealing with the Philosophy of Christianity.*

Edited by the Rev. FRANCIS AVELING, D.D.

---

Demy 8vo. Price 3s. 6d. net.

---

The Series will consist of volumes upon the rational groundwork of the Christian Religion: God, the Soul, Revelation, the Christian System, (the Person and Resurrection of Christ, Miracles and Spiritualism, etc.), and will deal also with various difficulties that are urged against the Christian Faith. It is proposed to include volumes on Evil and Death, Sin and Punishment, Moral Eugenics, the Philosophy of the Papacy, etc., in the Series. The treatment throughout will be such as is calculated to appeal to common sense and philosophical thought, and the most able specialists will be entrusted with the preparation of the various volumes of the Series.

*Volumes arranged for:—*

## THE PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIANITY.

By the Rev. A. B. SHARPE, M.A.

## THE GOD OF PHILOSOPHY.

By the Rev. FRANCIS AVELING, D.D.

## MESSIANIC PHILOSOPHY.

By GIDEON W. B. MARSH, B.A. (Lond.), F.R.Hist.Soc.

## VITALISM.

By Prof. B. C. A. WINDLE, D.Sc., F.R.S.

## PHILOSOPHICAL ASPECTS OF THE PAPACY.

By the Right Rev. Monsignor Canon MOYES, D.D.

## THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE HUMAN SOUL.

By the Rev. J. C. GIBBONS, Ph.D.

EXPOSITORY ESSAYS IN CHRISTIAN  
PHILOSOPHY

EDITED BY THE REV. FRANCIS AVELING, D.D.

---

THE  
GOD OF PHILOSOPHY

BY THE  
REV. FRANCIS AVELING, D.D.

*Τοῦ γὰρ καὶ γένος ἐσμὲν.*  
—*Acts xvii. 28.*

LONDON AND EDINBURGH  
SANDS AND COMPANY  
ST LOUIS, MO.  
B. HERDER, 17 SOUTH BROADWAY  
1906



THE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL STUDIES  
10 COLLEGE PLACE  
TORONTO 5, CANADA,

JAN 2 - 1952

3630

## P R E F A C E

IN the following pages I have attempted no more than to restate in simple language and upon the old philosophical basis, the natural proofs by which the existence of God is demonstrated. As far as I know, there is no small and handy English treatise upon the subject that attempts to deal with its matter upon the plan here adopted. The literature bearing upon this important philosophical question is exceedingly voluminous. Perhaps more has been written upon it than upon any other subject of human interest. Great thinkers of every age and nation have laboured upon the point. But apart from the grave initial difficulty of the languages in which their results have been stated, there is the further disadvantage that their work is scattered through almost countless volumes and fragments, making it no easy matter to gather its results, or the method by which they were acquired, into any one compendious form.

The methods to which I refer have been very

various, some of them satisfying the logical requirements of natural reason, some relying upon factors that critical reason seems to be unable to approve. The methods of rationalism and the inference of spiritualism are not those of mysticism or illumination. But these diverse methods all issue in an acknowledgment of one supreme and spiritual being, the cause and the end of all things. It is to those who desire, and with every right, a purely rational and intellectual treatment of the subject that the following pages are addressed. The fascinating persuasions of mysticism are deliberately omitted as not capable of a rational explanation without a laborious and possibly a fallacious accommodation of thought and language. What may, perhaps, be admitted in the case of the individual does not always hold good universally: and consequently, no other lines of proof than those capable of bearing an entirely rational scrutiny are advanced.

A "proof," however, it must be remembered, is the detailed statement of a line of reasoning by which the human mind, acting normally, has from certain fixed and immutable first principles of thought reached the conclusions necessarily involved in the mental process. In order to be understood, the "proof" must be assimilated. It can have no value whatever in forcing conviction. It does not produce certainty. It records it. And the whole