

**THE LIFE AND TEACHING
OF LEO TOLSTOY: A
BOOK OF EXTRACTS**

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The life and teaching of Leo Tolstoy: a book of extracts by G. H. Perris

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G. H. PERRIS

**THE LIFE AND TEACHING
OF LEO TOLSTOY: A
BOOK OF EXTRACTS**

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OF
LEO TOLSTOY

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The Life and Teaching of Leo Tolstoy

INTRODUCTION

THE genius of Leo Tolstoy speaks for itself. What I wish rather to emphasise in these introductory pages is the actuality and inevitability of the man and his gospel. Academic foot-rules are useless here; it is no armchair philosopher, *bombinans in vacuo*, no mere preacher of a school of doctrine, that we have before us. Tolstoy arises in a time of need out of the hard facts of life, as all the great prophets have done—as Moses, Jesus, Sakya Muni did in the ancient world. With ear close to earth and the popular heart, as the unwritten age-old songs of the peasantry are caught by the traveller, was this gospel of real life set down. Under the hand of the grand artist it takes form. As we consider it more, it seems like a pure diamond flashing forth the light of heaven in a single piercing beam or a prism of many colours. In essentials as old as the human conscience, it is yet the last lesson of human experience; in the courts