

**THE DIVINE MYSTERY: A  
READING OF THE HISTORY  
OF CHRISTIANITY DOWN  
TO THE TIME OF CHRIST**

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The Divine Mystery: A Reading of the History of Christianity Down to the Time of Christ by  
Allen Upward

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THE  
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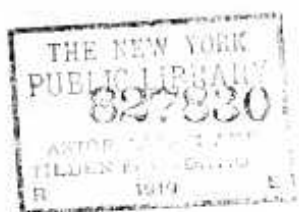
A READING OF THE HISTORY OF  
CHRISTIANITY DOWN TO  
THE TIME OF CHRIST

BY  
ALLEN UPWARD

AUTHOR OF "THE NEW WORD"

BOSTON AND NEW YORK  
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1915



## ADVERTISEMENT

THE present volume is the first of a series intended to elucidate the history and significance of the greatest revolution in history. The writer is proceeding with a study of Jesus the Nazarene, and the intricate problem of the growth and formation of the Christian creed and scriptures.

It was not my original purpose to do more than summarise and combine the labours of previous students, and hence this outline was written mainly from memory. In deference to the wishes of others, I have now provided it with a modest furniture of references and citations for the guidance of readers unfamiliar with the subject (in doing which I have had the expert assistance of Mr. Dudley Wright); but I need not say that these notes give a very inadequate idea of the material actually drawn upon. It is as a work of interpretation, and not as a work of reference, that the volume has been planned, and the only scientific merit it can pretend to is that claimed by Bossuet for his *Universal History*, the merit of a general chart which shows the relations between different provinces. Current literature is seriously deficient in comprehensive surveys of the kind; and I may be allowed to pay a tribute in passing to Professor Myres' lucid sketch, *The Dawn of History*, which I could wish to be read by way of introduction to these pages.

So far as I am aware this is the first attempt at a complete outline of the Christian evolution in the light of modern knowledge, and perhaps the chapters dealing with the rise of monotheism may be found to bridge a real gap. No reader can feel so strongly as the writer how tentative and provisional every work of this kind must be for a long time to come ; but if we were to wait for perfect certainty in the field of history, we should wait for ever.

A. U.



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*THE DIVINE MYSTERY.*

*What Magnets far away control our Motions here?  
What mystic Messages vibrating from the Sky,  
In what immortal Code that baffles mortal Ear,  
As those bright Signs in Heaven bewilder mortal Eye?  
What Lights are they of which we the poor Shadows seem;  
The changing Phantasies of Whose eternal Dream?  
Into what Meaning clear ascends our muffled Speech?  
What Shuttles throw the Woof whose Warp is all we know?  
What Actors on what Stage does this Rehearsal teach?  
In what glad Blossoms there are these sad Buds to blow?  
What Strain beyond the Stars completes our Minor here;  
What Divine Mystery in what remoter Sphere?*

ALLEN UPWARD.

## *THE ENCHANTED CITY*

ONCE upon a time there stood in the middle of the lands an enchanted City, whose foundations were laid in blood. It was a holy city, inhabited by the subjects of a Wizard Emperor, reigning over a fairy country far away. All the firm land had once obeyed the Emperor, who had raised it from the deep by words of might. But there had been rebellion in Fairyland ; and the traitors, driven out from their native seat, had come among men, and tempted them to join in war against the great White Throne. Wherefore sentence of death had been recorded against mankind by their Suzerain Lord ; yet he so loved them that his royal Son had taken their guilt upon himself, and by his death on earth had earned their pardon. Thereafter he had risen from the grave, and had gone back to Fairyland, where is no death ; bequeathing to men his Father's invitation to follow him some day to that bright abode. They who had heard the good news, and become reconciled with their Suzerain, were called the Saints ; and their camp and dwelling-place was called the City of God.

The City of God was besieged by seen and unseen enemies, against whom it was aided by mysterious protectors. The citizens were put into bonds, they were scourged, wild beasts were let loose against them, they were banished or crucified. From these calamities they were delivered by magical arms : they drank poisons