

THE PRODUCTIVE BELIEFS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649382798

The productive beliefs by Lynn Harold Hough

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LYNN HAROLD HOUGH

**THE PRODUCTIVE
BELIEFS**

'The Productive Beliefs

The Cole Lectures for 1919
delivered before Vanderbilt University

The Productive Beliefs

By

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NEW YORK CHICAGO
Fleming H. Revell Company
LONDON AND EDINBURGH

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THE COLE LECTURES

THE late Colonel E. W. Cole of Nashville, Tennessee, donated to Vanderbilt University the sum of five thousand dollars, afterwards increased by Mrs. E. W. Cole to ten thousand, the design and conditions of which gift are stated as follows :

"The object of this fund is to establish a foundation for a perpetual Lectureship in connection with the Biblical Department of the University, to be restricted in its scope to a defense and advocacy of the Christian religion. The lectures shall be delivered at such intervals, from time to time, as shall be deemed best by the Board of Trust; and the particular theme and lecturer shall be determined by nomination of the Theological Faculty and confirmation of the College of Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Said lecture shall always be reduced to writing in full, and the manuscript of the same shall be the property of the University, to be published or disposed of by the Board of Trust at its discretion, the net proceeds arising therefrom to be added to the foundation fund, or otherwise used for the benefit of the Biblical Department."

LECTURE I
THE ADVENTUROUS GOD

LECTURE I

THE ADVENTUROUS GOD

IN the year 378 A. D. the world trembled. In that year the battle of Adrianople was fought. In that year the Emperor Valens was defeated and killed. For the first time Roman soldiers were defeated by Barbarian warriors within the bounds of the Empire. Men began to look at each other with strange eyes and to wonder what the future of the world would be. In the year 410 A. D. the world reeled as from a terrible blow. In that year Alaric and his West Goths sacked the city of Rome. The event staggered the imagination of men. It was as if the sun had suddenly begun to dance wildly about the sky. Rome the stable, Rome the dependable, Rome the eternal had bent before the onslaught of its foes. Life itself seemed beginning to fall apart. The very structure of civilization seemed about to disintegrate. With strange palpitations of the heart and with eyes full of fear and anxiety men whispered together about the bewildering days which had come upon them and the more bewildering days which lay ahead. In the midst of it all, while men's minds were dizzy and their hearts were faint, a man in North Africa caught a vision of the permanent in the midst of the fleeting, a vision of the stable and