

**AUTHORITY; THE FUNCTION
OF AUTHORITY IN LIFE AND
ITS RELATIONS TO LEGALISM
IN ETHICS AND RELIGION**

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Authority; the function of authority in life and its relations to legalism in ethics and religion by
A. v. C. P. Huizinga

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BY

A. v. C. P. HUIZINGA

Author of "Belief in a Personal God"
"The American Philosophy Pragmatism"
"The Authority of Might and Right," etc.

"Without authority—the objective norm of truth and value—and faith—repose in it as our immediate standard—life could not well be lived. Is it not strange, therefore, that those who are willing slaves to the idols of our day should clamor for freedom from all restraint, and raise an outcry against all legitimate authority?"



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TO
DR. FRANCIS L. PATTON
PRINCETON'S ABLE AND INSPIRING
DEFENDER OF THE CALVINISTIC FAITH
THESE PAGES ARE GRATEFULLY
INSCRIBED

PREFACE

In the following pages is presented a general survey of the subject of authority. The author has gone afield to bring out authority's function in life with special reference to legalism in ethics and religion. Law brooks no interference. Though God's law needs no vindication by the evidence of impending penalties and rewards, its vindication is written upon the heart of man with unmistakable anticipations. Human law and prevailing custom require conformity by force. This outward conformity, however, pre-supposes at least the capacity, and the law aims at a willingness of the individual to follow its prescribed course or rule. This is done on authority, in faith. We believe in the thing prescribed, recommended, enjoined. The community as a whole endorses the regulations in force over its individuals or members. It is not a matter which is reasoned out, or rationally justified. It is done for us, we accept its right, recognize its authority, we believe, we exercise faith.

This is individual activity, operating in society, it has metaphysical implications, and its

PREFACE

highest sanctions are found in the theological sphere. In the first part of this volume are especially treated the psychological and sociological; in the second part, the metaphysical and theological aspect of authority.

The discussion, moreover, has special reference to the present trend of theological opinion. Quotations are numerous, though they are used as illustrations rather than as authority. Still, the weight of expert opinion, of course, may be used as corroborative evidence in argument. If this essay does not convince, it may at least clarify some notions regarding the subject; or, better still, it may occasion abler scholars to give it deserved attention. For one thing is certain: Authority must become the most vital question for an age which—rightly or wrongly—tends to challenge its established forms.

A. v. C. P. HUIZINGA.

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