

THE GREEK VIEW OF LIFE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649141821

The Greek view of life by G. Lowes Dickinson

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

G. LOWES DICKINSON

**THE GREEK
VIEW OF LIFE**

THE GREEK VIEW OF LIFE

THE
GREEK VIEW OF LIFE

BY

G. LOWES DICKINSON, M.A.

FELLOW OF KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

NINTH EDITION

NEW YORK
DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & CO.

1915

PREFACE TO THE SEVENTH EDITION

IN preparing this edition for the press I have endeavoured to correct any positive mis-statement of fact. But I have not attempted to correct what may be regarded by some critics as an incompleteness or over-emphasis of statement. This objection is likely to be taken in particular to the first chapter. Recent research has discovered, or brought into new prominence, the tangled mass of primitive superstitions which underlay the literary and artistic presentation of Greek religion, and persisted among the populace throughout the classical age. If I had taken all this into account I should have had to modify or supplement my statement, especially with regard to the attitude of the Greek towards death; and I should have had constantly to refer to the historical development of their religious conceptions and rituals. But all this, I think I may justly say, lies outside the province of this book. I have concerned myself to present the specific achievement of the Greek spirit, as reflected

in the works of their most enlightened poets and thinkers. That achievement was to humanize barbarism and enlighten superstition. It is the resulting point of view that gives a unique value to the study of Greek institutions, thought and art; and it is this point of view which I have endeavoured in the following pages to introduce to English readers unversed in Greek studies.

I have to thank Miss Jane Harrison, Professor Murray, and Mr. J. T. Sheppard for valuable criticism and suggestions, which I have incorporated, as far as possible, in the text of this edition.

PREFACE

THE following pages are intended to serve as a general introduction to Greek literature and thought, for those, primarily, who do not know Greek. Whatever opinions may be held as to the value of translations, it seems clear that it is only by their means that the majority of modern readers can attain to any knowledge of Greek culture; and as I believe that culture to be still, as it has been in the past, the most valuable element of a liberal education, I have hoped that such an attempt as the present to give, with the help of quotations from the original authors, some general idea of the Greek view of life, will not be regarded as labour thrown away.

It has been essential to my purpose to avoid, as far as may be, all controversial matter; and if any classical scholar who may come across this volume should be inclined to complain of omissions or evasions, I would beg him to remember the object of the book and to judge it according to its fitness for its own end.

"The Greek View of Life," no doubt, is a question-begging title, but I believe it to have a quite intelligible meaning; for varied and manifold as the phases may be that are presented by the Greek civilization, they do nevertheless group themselves

about certain main ideas, to be distinguished with sufficient clearness from those which have dominated other nations. It is these ideas that I have endeavoured to bring into relief; and if I have failed, the blame, I submit, must be ascribed rather to myself than to the nature of the task I have undertaken.

For permission to make the extracts from translations here printed, my best thanks are due to the following authors and publishers:—Professor Butcher, Mr. Andrew Lang, Mr. E. D. A. Morshead, Mr. B. B. Rogers, Dr. Verrall, Mr. A. S. Way, Messrs. George Bell and Sons, the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press, the Delegates of the Clarendon Press, Oxford, Messrs. Macmillan and Co., Mr. John Murray, and Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Co. I have also to thank the Master and Fellows of Balliol College, Oxford, for permission to quote at considerable length from the late Professor Jowett's translations of Plato and Thucydides.

Appended is a list of the translations from which I have quoted.

LIST OF TRANSLATIONS USED

ÆSCHYLUS (B.C. 525—456). "**The House of Atreus**" (i.e. the "**Agamemnon**," "**Choephoræ**" and "**Eumenides**"), translated by E. D. A. MORSHEAD (Warren and Sons).

The "**Eumenides**," translated by DR. VERRALL (Cambridge, 1885).

ARISTOPHANES (C. B.C. 444—380). "**The Acharnians, the Knights and the Birds**," translated by JOHN HOOKHAM FRERE (Morley's Universal Library, Routledge).

[Also the "**Frogs**" and the "**Peace**" in his Collected Works (Pickering)].

The "**Clouds**," the "**Lysistrata**" ["**Women in Revolt**"], the "**Peace**," and the "**Wasps**," translated by B. B. ROGERS.

ARISTOTLE (B.C. 384—322). The "**Ethics**," the "**Politics**," and the "**Rhetoric**," translated by J. E. C. WELLDON (Macmillan and Co.).

DEMOSTHENES (B.C. 385—322). "**Orations**," translated by C. R. KENNEDY (Bell).

EURIPIDES (B.C. 410—406). "**Tragedies**," translated by A. S. WAY (Macmillan and Co.).