

**SEVEN STARS: AND
OTHER POEMS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649416837

Seven Stars: And Other Poems by Clare Shipman

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CLARE SHIPMAN

**SEVEN STARS: AND
OTHER POEMS**

SEVEN STARS

AND OTHER
POEMS

By CLARE SHIPMAN



UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

JOHN J. NEWBIGIN
SAN FRANCISCO
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Copyright
CLARE SHIPMAN
San Francisco, 1918

Class of 1897
TO MY
ANNIVERSARY

TO HER IN THE INVISIBLE

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FOREWORD.

It seems at this time as if the world has swung around to the ancient language of symbols. We have always had them, indeed, but in process of time their spirits departed and left them as husks on our hands, and even prodigals in far countries of materialistic thought and conduct eventually lose interest in husks. The letter profits nothing without the quickening spirit. How many custodians of that sacred symbol, the square and the compass, are able to relate it inwardly to the soul of the race? Has the swing of the Gothic arch, or the color of Mary's azure cloak a living place in the life of the church adherent? Do attributes in his soul answer to the apocryphal signs of the Man, the Lion, the Eagle and the Bull, carved upon his altar panels?

The forever defensive theologian does not often put into his discourse the esoteric lesson of the streets of gold, the gates of pearl, or, to go back to the old dispensation, of Egypt, Moses's rod, the Red Sea and Canaan. But these things, as the wise Paul said of some other things, "are an allegory." Truth shines her light upon friend and foe alike and needs neither defense nor argument. The cobra cap of the Buddha may reveal the same truth as the serpent of Egypt, and the Lotus upon which he dreams, the ineffable message of the Easter lily.

Back in the ancient days of inner wisdom there came flashes of understanding revealed in myths, legends, fables and fairy lore. The Devas of the Hindoos, the Daimons of the Greeks, the Divinities of the Romans and the Angels of the Hebrews all prove the groping of the soul of the race of mankind to connect with its source, or with the abstract, hidden realm of the Spirit.