

**GOD WITH US: A
STUDY IN RELIGIOUS
IDEALISM**

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God with us: a study in religious idealism by W. R. Boyce Gibson

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W. R. BOYCE GIBSON

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BY THE SAME AUTHOR

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TO
RUDOLF EUCKEN

GREAT AND WORTHY IN HIS THOUGHT AS IN HIS
LIFE, I DEDICATE THIS AFTERMATH FROM
HIS OWN FIELD.

PREFACE

THE present volume may be considered as a sequel to my work on 'Rudolf Eucken's Philosophy of Life.' The first two chapters resume in a new form, and from fresh points of view, the essentials of the New Idealism, whilst the third attempts to connect this philosophy of life and of action with Professor Stanley Hall's great work on Adolescence, and to provide it thereby with an appropriate psychological basis. Chapters IV. and V. may be taken as a development of Professor Eucken's Activism along the lines of a Religious Idealism, in which the conception of 'fruition' is, perhaps, more explicitly emphasized than in Professor Eucken's own personal work. But since Activism is itself a Religious Idealism, this development must be conceived as taking place within the framework of Professor Eucken's own ideas, and not as passing beyond it. Indeed, the chapter on Religion and Morality, which immediately follows, sufficiently attests the fact that the outlook of a Fruition-Philosophy is still essentially activist. In Chapters VII. and VIII. the fundamental conceptions of love and action are

more closely considered, and the convictions of Religious Idealism brought into line with the recent psychological work of Mr. Shand and Professor G. F. Stout. Chapter IX. discusses the relations between Religious Idealism and Pragmatism, and Chapter X., with which the volume concludes, attempts to explain and apply, in close connection with the problem of Evil, the anthropotheistic idea for which the title 'God with Us' explicitly stands.

My original intention had been to write a work which should bear the simple title 'Religious Idealism,' and be as intimately concerned with intellection as with action or fruition. But as my thought took shape, it became increasingly evident that, under the circumstances, the project was too ambitious. It was found necessary to concentrate on the concreter problem of the religious life, and exclude or defer all direct consideration of the further problem as to the nature and limits of Religious Knowledge. The purpose of this book is restricted to the formulation and defence of a philosophy of the religious life from the point of view of the personal experient, the religious life being throughout conceived, not as any mere refinement of the 'natural,' but as a life whose distinctive inspiration and supreme motive is the conviction that God is with us. And the key to this anthropotheistic position is found to be *Love*. The attempt is accordingly made to study the relation in which Love stands to the needs of adolescence, to moral

conduct, and religious faith ; and it is from the central point of vantage which life wins through its loyalty to this master-passion that the crucial problems of Monism and of Evil have been considered and discussed.

The leisure requisite for the writing of this book has been gained through a year's leave of absence from the routine of University teaching. My sincerest thanks are due to those in authority over me, whose graciousness and goodwill gave me this sabbatical year, as also to my colleagues who undertook in my absence the charge of my classes. My best thanks are also due to many kind friends at Geneva, notably to M. Adrien Naville, for the kindness shown to me and my work during a winter's stay abroad.

Once again I am indebted, and deeply indebted, to the generosity of the Hibbert Trustees. The expenses incurred in the publication of my work on ' Rudolf Eucken's Philosophy of Life ' were defrayed by a grant from the Hibbert Trust, and a liberal grant from the same source has since been allowed me in connection with the writing of the present work. I take this opportunity of gratefully acknowledging the substantial help and encouragement I have derived from this timely and disinterested generosity.

My best thanks are due to Messrs. D. Appleton and Co., by whom the ' Adolescence ' (by President G. Stanley Hall) is published and copyrighted, for their kindness in allowing me to quote the numerous extracts from that work which appear in Chapters III.