

INTERPRETATION OF THE SPIRITUAL PHILOSOPHY

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Interpretation of the spiritual philosophy by Canon J. Gurnhill

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CANON J. GURNHILL

**INTERPRETATION
OF THE SPIRITUAL
PHILOSOPHY**

INTERPRETATION
OF THE
SPIRITUAL PHILOSOPHY

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

BY
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EMMANUEL COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

AUTHOR OF
"A COMPANION TO THE PSALTER," "THE SPIRITUAL PHILOSOPHY," ETC.

"Flower in the crannied wall,
I pluck you out of the crannies:
I hold you here, root and all, in my hand,
Little flower—but if I could understand
What you are, root and all, and all in all,
I should know what God and man is."—TENNYSON.

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TO
MY DEAR WIFE,
IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION OF MUCH VALUED HELP.

Nov. 29th, 1919.

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PREFACE

NOTHING strikes me as more remarkable about the reviews and criticisms of my book on Spiritual Philosophy than their wonderful diversity. According to some of my critics, the book contained nothing new or worthy of notice. According to others, there was subject-matter in it which called for lengthy and careful consideration. I thank them all for honouring me with their notice, but I shall beg to be excused from replying to their criticisms, with one exception. It is that which several of my reviewers have made; to the effect that my treatment of the subject, considering its magnitude and importance, and the number of questions and side issues it opens out, was too brief and sketchy.

I must plead guilty to the charge. It is quite true that my book was little more than a suggestive outline of the vast subject I ventured to discuss. But I would add in self-justification, that at a time when not only Civilization, but Philosophy and Religion are at the cross-roads, I felt it very important that the claims of the Spiritual Philosophy should not be overlooked.

And now my aim in publishing the present volume is, so far as I am able, to fill in the outline and remove some of the defects which might justly be urged against my former volume.

One word as to the title I have chosen.

We must not forget, that Philosophy, which I take in its broadest sense as the love of wisdom, is to a large extent the work and result of interpretation; interpretation, that is, of the truths and facts which form the subject-matter of our experience, whether in Nature or Revelation. Theory and speculation are by no means to be excluded as valuable aids in the quest and attainment of wisdom; but the theory and speculation that are not based on the facts of experience, or are not the reasoned and reasonable deductions from those facts, can be of little value.

I have chosen the title of Interpretation, therefore, because it will not only indicate the general purpose I have in view, which is to explain and expand the positions already laid down, but also, I hope, enable me to make some further contributions to this important subject of Spiritual Philosophy.

J. G.

EAST STOCKWITH VICARAGE,
September 3rd, 1919.

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