

**IN THE PRONAOS OF THE TEMPLE
OF WISDOM. CONTAINING
THE HISTORY OF THE TRUE
AND THE FALSE ROSICRUCIANS**

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In the Pronaos of the Temple of Wisdom. Containing the History of the True and the False Rosicrucians by Franz Hartmann

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FRANZ HARTMANN

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IN THE PRONAOS
OF THE
TEMPLE OF WISDOM.

Containing the History
OF THE
TRUE AND THE FALSE
ROSICRUCIANS.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION INTO THE MYSTERIES
OF THE
Hermetic Philosophy.

FRANZ HARTMANN, M.D.

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TO
MARIE, COUNTESS OF CAITHNESS,
DUCHESS DE POMÁR,
AND
TO ALL WHO HAVE DISCOVERED THE TRUE CROSS BY
ENTERING INTO THE LIGHT THROUGH
THE POWER OF THE FIRE,
THIS BOOK IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
BY
THE AUTHOR.

Little would it benefit us if we knew of the existence of sub-light only from reading about it in books, and were incapable to see the light and to enjoy the rays of the sun. What would it serve us if we theoretically knew all about the constitution of the terrestrial sun if we were encompassed by darkness? What good would it do to us to be informed about all the qualities of the divine powers of God, if we could recognise nothing divine within our own selves.

No man can show to another the light if the latter is incapable to see it himself; but the light is everywhere; there is nothing to hinder a person to see it, except his love for the darkness. His love for the illusions of his terrestrial phase of existence causes him to regard these illusions as real, and to relegate the Real to the realm of fancy and dreams. Nevertheless, that which seems now the true light to him will be as darkness when his consciousness awakens to the perception of the light of the spirit.

As light is incomprehensible except by its contrast to darkness, I have not only selected some of the best portions of the writings of the ancient hermetic philosophers and mediæval "Rosicrucians"; but I have also taken the trouble to collect a few facts from the great storehouse of human follies to be found in the fools' paradise of the visionary and dreamer; but for those who earnestly wish to enter the path and to follow the Light, I have added some of the most precious gems, taken from the books of the sages; whose meaning will be incomprehensible to the would-be wise; while those who are unsophisticated will find therein a great deal of wisdom.

THE AUTHOR.

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INTRODUCTION.

IN the popular books of to-day, dealing with the origin of religion, we find it stated that they originated from fear. It is described how our ancestors, while in a savage state, and being unacquainted with the revelations made by modern science, saw the lightning flash, and heard the noise of thunder and watched other natural phenomena, whose origin they could not explain, and how they came to the logical conclusion that such things must be produced by some extra cosmic supernatural and intellectual power, which might some day take a notion to destroy their possessions; and which must, therefore, be flattered and propitiated so that it might be kept in a good humour.

Such a scientific explanation of the origin of religion and the belief in God may satisfy the speculating brain of the rationalist and thinker, who, living entirely in the moonshine of his own imagination has no perception for the light of that knowledge which belongs to the spirit of man; but such a theory will not satisfy the heart in which there is still a spark of the divine life, and which, therefore, feels the presence of an universal and higher power that is not a product of nature, but superior to her. A religion having such a merely logical origin would be truly the religion of