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ANCIENT ART AND RITUAL**

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The Home University Library of Modern Knowledge, No. 70. Ancient Art and Ritual by Jane Ellen Harrison

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JANE ELLEN HARRISON

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OF MODERN KNOWLEDGE

No. 70

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ANCIENT ART AND RITUAL

BY

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ANCIENT GREECE," "PROLEGOMENA TO THE
STUDY OF GREEK RELIGION," ETC.



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PREFATORY NOTE

It may be well at the outset to say clearly what is the aim of the present volume. The title is *Ancient Art and Ritual*, but the reader will find in it no general summary or even outline of the facts of either ancient art or ancient ritual. These facts are easily accessible in handbooks. The point of my title and the real gist of my argument lie perhaps in the word "and"—that is, in the intimate connection which I have tried to show exists between ritual and art. This connection has, I believe, an important bearing on questions vital to-day, as, for example, the question of the place of art in our modern civilization, its relation to and its difference from religion and morality; in a word, on the whole enquiry as to what the nature of art is and how it can help or hinder spiritual life.

I have taken Greek drama as a typical instance, because in it we have the clear historical case of a great art, which arose out of a very primitive and almost worldwide ritual. The rise of the Indian drama, or the mediæval and from it the

modern stage, would have told us the same tale and served the like purpose. But Greece is nearer to us to-day than either India or the Middle Ages.

Greece and the Greek drama remind me that I should like to offer my thanks to Professor Gilbert Murray, for help and criticism which has far outrun the limits of editorial duty.

J. E. H.

*Newnham College,
Cambridge, June, 1913.*

CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
I ART AND RITUAL	9
II PRIMITIVE RITUAL: PANTOMIMIC DANCES . . .	29
III PERIODIC CEREMONIES: THE SPRING FESTIVAL .	49
IV THE PRIMITIVE SPRING DANCE OR DITHYRAMB, IN GREECE	75
V THE TRANSITION FROM RITUAL TO ART: THE <i>DROMENON</i> AND THE DRAMA	119
VI GREEK SCULPTURE: THE PANATHENAIC FRIEZE AND THE APOLLO BELVEDERE	170
VII RITUAL, ART, AND LIFE	204
BIBLIOGRAPHY	253
INDEX	255

