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From *Isis Unveiled*, (BEFORE THE VEIL) I p. xlv¹

DEEPLY SENSIBLE OF THE TITANIC STRUGGLE that is now in progress between materialism and the spiritual aspirations of mankind, our constant endeavour has been to gather into our several chapters [of *Isis Unveiled*], like weapons into armouries, every fact and argument that can be used to aid the latter in defeating the former. Sickly and deformed child as it now is, the materialism of Today is born of the brutal Yesterday. Unless its growth is arrested, it may become our master. It is the bastard progeny of the French Revolution and its reaction against ages of religious bigotry and repression. To prevent the crushing of these spiritual aspirations, the blighting of these hopes, and the deadening of that intuition which teaches us of a God and a hereafter, we must show our false theologies in their naked deformity, and distinguish between divine religion and human dogmas. Our voice is raised for spiritual freedom, and our plea made for enfranchisement from all tyranny, whether of SCIENCE or THEOLOGY.



¹ Frontispiece: Una esclava en venta (c. 1897) José Jiménez Aranda, Museo de Málaga. The sign hanging from the girl's neck bears an inscription in Greek: "Rose, 18 years [old], on sale [for] 800 mna [coins]." A *μνα* (plural *μναι*) or *mina*, in Latin, was an ancient Near Eastern unit of weight, as well as currency, equivalent to 100 Attic drachmai.

Aliment for the Soul

IF PEOPLE COULD SEE THAT LIFE ON THIS EARTH, even the happiest, is but a burden and an illusion, that it is but our own Karma, the cause producing the effect, that is our own judge, our saviour in future lives, then the struggle for life will soon lose its intensity.

Might is not right, it is “the triumph of the most unprincipled.” When vanity and selfishness hinder Nature’s ultimate possibility, they sow the seeds of their ultimate disintegration. This is the destiny of the callous and the spiritually selfish.

“Disciples may be likened to the strings of the soul-echoing Vīnā; mankind, unto its sounding board; the hand that sweeps it to the tuneful breath of the Great World Soul. The string that fails to answer ’neath the Master’s touch in dulcet harmony with all the others, breaks and is cast away.” And the reckless schoolboy cannot be being helped, because it acknowledges no master.

The main cause of pain lies in our personality seeking the permanent in the impermanent. Animals do not suffer so keenly as human beings, and do not remember suffering. Only those who dare to lift the veil of illusion can soon stand beyond all pain, all misery, and beyond all the wear and tear of change, which is the chief originator of pain.

Mutual toleration and charity for each other’s shortcomings; mutual help in the research of truths in every domain, moral or physical and even, in daily life — these are the hallmarks of a True Theosophist.²

JULIA KORRES

Series Editor



² Abstracted from “Selfishness is the cause of all sin and suffering,” in our Black versus White Magic Series.

Suggested reading for students.



Selections from our Down to Earth Series.

- A BALANCED VIEW OF THE MOTIVES BEHIND DIETARY PREFERENCES
- A DABBLER IN OCCULTISM EXPOSED
- A DIRE PROPHECY ABOUT EGYPT
- A RICH LIFE, WITHOUT THE TRAPPINGS OF MAMMON
- ALLOPATHS PERSECUTING HOMEOPATHS
- AMAZING STORIES, DISCOUNTED BY THE SCIENTIST AND THE RELIGIOUS BIGOT
- ARYAN MUSIC
- BLAVATSKY ON HOW TO EDUCATE CHILDREN
- BORN ATHEIST, BURIED CHRISTIAN
- BROTHERHOOD RANKS ABOVE MEDITATION
- CAN EATING ANIMAL FLESH EVER BE ETHICAL
- CHESTERFIELD'S CHOICE THOUGHTS TO HIS SON
- CHILDREN TRAINING THEMSELVES FOR MURDER
- CICERO'S TUSCULAN DISPUTATIONS - TR. YONGE
- CIVILIZATION, THE DEATH OF ART AND BEAUTY
- COCK, A VERY OCCULT BIRD
- COMPETITION RAGES MOST FIERCELY IN CHRISTIAN LANDS
- CRUELTY IN THE BIRCH GROVE
- DAZZLED GLIMPSES INTO THE ASTRAL LIGHT
- EARTHQUAKES ARE THE OUTCOME OF SINS COMMITTED BY MEN
- ENGLISH NEWSPAPER SLANDERS RUSSIAN LADY
- EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING IS INTERRELATED
- FLESH-EATING AMONG BUDDHIST MONKS
- FOUL CONSPIRACIES AND BLATANT LIES LEVELLED AGAINST MADAME BLAVATSKY
- GORDON ON FAME, THAT COY GODDESS
- GRS MEAD SHOWS HIS TRUE COLOURS

DOWN TO EARTH SERIES
SUGGESTED READING FOR STUDENTS

- HIEROCLES EXALTS WEDLOCK
- HOW A DEVIL'S IMP REDEEMED HIS LOAF
- HOW TO CONDUCT OURSELVES TOWARDS OUR PARENTS
- IDOLATRY AND ZOOLATRY
- INSIGHTS TO EMOTION IN ART
- JUDICIAL PROCESSES AND PUNISHMENT IN CLASSICAL INDIA
- LÉVI ON THE TWO OPPOSING FORCES - TR. WAITE
- LÉVI WARNS THE IMPUDENT - TR. WAITE
- MEDITATION PROPER IS SPIRITUAL SEERSHIP
- MIRACLES ARE NATURAL PHENOMENA
- MODERN INDIA IS SPIRITUALLY DEGRADED
- MUSINGS OF AN UNPOPULAR PHILOSOPHER
- NARCISSISM AND ANIMAL SENSUALISM PERSONIFIED
- OCCULT PROPHECIES
- OCCULT TALES BY JUDGE
- ONIONS WERE CONSIDERED TOO SACRED TO BE EATEN
- OXFORD DON PROFANES VEDIC HYMN
- PLUTARCH ON THE TRANQUILLITY OF THE MIND - TR. MORGAN
- PLUTARCH ON WHETHER WATER OR LAND ANIMALS ARE THE MOST CRAFTY
- PLUTARCH ON WHY EATING ANIMALS IS REPULSIVE - TR. BAXTER
- POVERTY BREEDS GENEROSITY, WEALTH GREED AND SELFISHNESS
- PROMETHEUS, THE LIGHT-BRINGER, HURLED DOWN TO THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH
- PYTHAGORAS' BAN OF BEANS
- REFRAIN FROM THE MANIA OF CELEBRATING PERSONALITIES
- RHOADES ON TRAINING THE IMAGINATION
- RUSKIN'S SESAME AND LILIES
- RUSSIAN VANDALISM OF PERSIAN ZOROASTRIANISM
- SAPPHIRE BLUE, THE MOST ELECTRIC OF ALL COLOURS
- SIXTEEN CAUTIONS IN PARAGRAPHS BY JUDGE
- SOCIAL ETHICS OF NINETEENTH CENTURY RUSSIA
- SPECULATIVE LUCUBRATIONS OF AN ARISTOTELEAN PHILOSOPHER
- SPIRITUAL RULES AND PROTREPTICS
- TAYLOR'S VINDICATION OF THE RIGHTS OF BRUTES

DOWN TO EARTH SERIES
SUGGESTED READING FOR STUDENTS

- TEN INJUNCTIONS FOR THEOSOPHISTS BY JUDGE
- TERENCE ON LENIENCE
- THE BIRTHMARK BY NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE
- THE FEAR OF NUMBER THIRTEEN
- THE HOLLOW EARTH
- THE JAPANESE SHOULD NOT BOW DOWN TO CHRISTIAN ETHICS
- THE LEARNED TREE OF TIBET
- THE OCCULT CAUSES OF EPIDEMIC DISEASES
- THE PERNICIOUS INFLUENCE OF THE MOON
- THE RELIGIO-PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL IS NEITHER RELIGIOUS NOR PHILOSOPHICAL
- THE RUSSIAN MOTE AND THE BRITISH BEAM
- THE SEWER OF DOGMATIC CREEDS AND BLIND FAITH
- THE SPARKLE OF “LIGHT ON THE PATH” HAS BEEN DIMMED BY A DARK STAIN
- THE SPIRIT OF LIFE ISSUES FROM THE EARTH’S NORTH POLE
- THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL NEVER EXISTED
- THE UNGRATEFUL MAN
- THE VELVETEEN RABBIT
- TRUTH IS EXILED FROM THE PRESS BECAUSE IT IS NOT AS BEGUILING AS FALSEHOOD
- VIRGIL'S GEORGICS - TR. RHOADES
- WESTERN RELIGION ALONE IS TO BLAME FOR THE CRUELTY TO ANIMALS
- WHAT IS MUSIC BY RICE
- WHEN THE DOORS OF THE WORLD CLOSED ON THEM
- WHY DO ANIMALS SUFFER
- WHY THE HOLLOW MEN PRIZE THEIR VICE

