

THE SONGS OF THE GODS.

BY CAPT. R. C. COCKERILL.

Late Indian Staff Corps.

"I am the Lord, and there is none else;
There is no God beside me." Is. xlv. 5.

THE ALMIGHTY'S SONG.

"I am the God of might and power
Who this great world created.
I am the Lord of Heaven and earth,
And all subordinated.

The sun and moon and stars are mine,
And all that they contain.

I flash the lightning in the cloud,
And bring the storm and rain.

The grassy herb, the stately tree,
The desert plain, and mountain high,
The turbid stream, the sparkling sea;
Lord of them all, their God am I."

THE CREATOR'S SONG.

"Who is this God;" the savage cries,
"Who made the forest wild,
The icy blast, the cruel beast,
And helpless human child?"

"I am the God created all,
Man, bird, and beast, and tree:
But to be Lord of all, O Man!
Thy God created thee.

To conquer all; and rule o'er all
And live in peace and amity,
O Child of Earth, whate'er thy birth,
I, the Great God, created thee."

JEHOVAH'S SONG.

"Who is the God;" the Hebrews moaned,
 "To whom we make our cry
 When 'neath th' oppressor's yoke we toil
 In pain and misery?"

"I am your God;" Jehovah said,
 "I hear the prayers of all,
 When sorrow and afflictions bend,
 And troubles thickly fall.

I am your God, th' Eternal One,
 Who hears the meek and humble cry,
 Who brings the haughty tyrant down—
 Down to the earth—that God am I."

THE CHRIST'S SONG.

"Who is the God;" the Roman boasts.
 "With power to conquer me?
 From East to West I hold my sway;
 By sword, and shield, and war's array;
 I rule humanity."

"I am the God;" the Christ-child said,
 "With greater power than thine.
 With secret strength of wondrous love
 I reigned on earth; I reign above
 O'er all the gods, e'en potent Jove;
 I rule by right divine.

I rule by power of love and truth;
 I rule by force of charity;
 I rule by faith; I rule by hope;
 By virtue's might I conquer thee."

ALLAH'S SONG.

"Who is the God;" the Arab cries
 From sandy desert plain,
 "Who guides the stars across the skies,
 And brings life-giving rain?"

"I am that God. My angel called
 Mahomet from on high.
 I spoke to Moses from the bush,
 To Jesus from the sky.

As Lord of earth I hold thy fate.
 So make no gods of trees or stone:
 No other god I tolerate;
 Allah, thy God, must reign alone."

BRAHMA'S SONG.

But on far India's torrid plains,
 'Neath snow-capped mountains high,
 To the same question Brahmins wise
 Received a new reply:
 "I am the God; I, Brahma, am:
 The Self and Soul of all.
 Creator of this world am I,
 Of all things great and small.
 I am the Stars, the Moon, the Sun;
 I am the Spirit of the sky;
 I am the Earth (all substance one);
 I am in all; the All am I."

THE BRAHMIN'S PRAYER.

"Father of all," the sages said,
 "Though thou in truth art near,
 We cannot see thee in the air,
 Nor feel thy presence here.
 In earth, or sea, or running stream,
 In tangled forest high,
 Nor beast, nor bird, nor creeping thing,
 Proclaims that thou art nigh.
 O show to us some welcome sign;
 O prove thy sacred word sincere;
 Give us a glimpse of form divine,
 That we may know how gods appear."

VISHNU'S SONG.

The God complied. In various forms
 His presence manifested;
 In Rama, Krishna, Gautama,
 As human need suggested.
 "I am the God; I'm Vishnu called.
 When virtue suffers wrong,
 I'm born as man, to help the weak,

And overthrow the strong.
 I am the Sun, the source of Light;
 Of Knowledge, Pleasure, Profit, Joy;
 For these great ends I lend my might.
 Lord of the Universe am I."

THE BUDDHA'S SONG.

Beneath a spreading Bō-tree sat
 The Sākya prince and sage,
 And meditated on the ills
 Of grief, disease, and age.
 "The cause of sorrow is desire,
 This 'noble truth' I know.
 And from the death of passion's fire
 Relief must surely flow.
 So curbing anger, hate, and lust,
 The Buddha's 'eight-fold paths' employ:
 In truth and love for ever trust;
 So shall you live in endless joy."

SIVA'S SONG.

But faiths grow old, decay, and die,
 Like any living thing;
 And so again is heard the cry:
 "Who is the God, our King?"
 Then Siva spoke, "By pious rites
 And holy contemplation,
 I gained the power to conquer worlds,
 And rule the whole creation.
 I am your God, the 'Blessed One':
 Upon my power ascetics call.
 When good or evil would be done
 I am the God who doeth all."

THE SPIRIT'S SONG.

And now once more the problem vast
 Demands a new solution.
 "Who is the God;" is still the cry,
 "The God of Evolution?"
 And yet again by human voice
 The spirit makes reply:

"I am the God of all the earth,
 All Nature's Spirit I.
 I am the Source of light and heat ;
 I cause the sun and moon to shine,
 The grass to grow, the birds to sing,
 Mankind to think his thoughts divine.

THE SPIRIT EXPLAINS.

"The priests of old my prophets were :
 The heroes fought by me ;
 Inspired by me the poets sang
 Their songs of victory.
 By me the sages made their laws
 To keep mankind from evil :
 As cause of good they called me God,
 As source of ill, the Devil.
 But I am ONE.—There's none beside.—
 Mine is the earth, the sea, the sky,
 And all Creation, far and wide ;
 Spirit of all, your God am I."

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