
**Essay on the common features which appear in all forms
of religious belief**

Cust Robert Needham

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COMMON FEATURES WHICH
APPEAR IN ALL FORMS OF
RELIGIOUS BELIEF.



By R. N. CUST, LL.D.



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COMMON FEATURES, WHICH APPEAR IN ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF.

BY

ROBERT NEEDHAM CUST, LL.D.,

BARRISTER-AT-LAW,

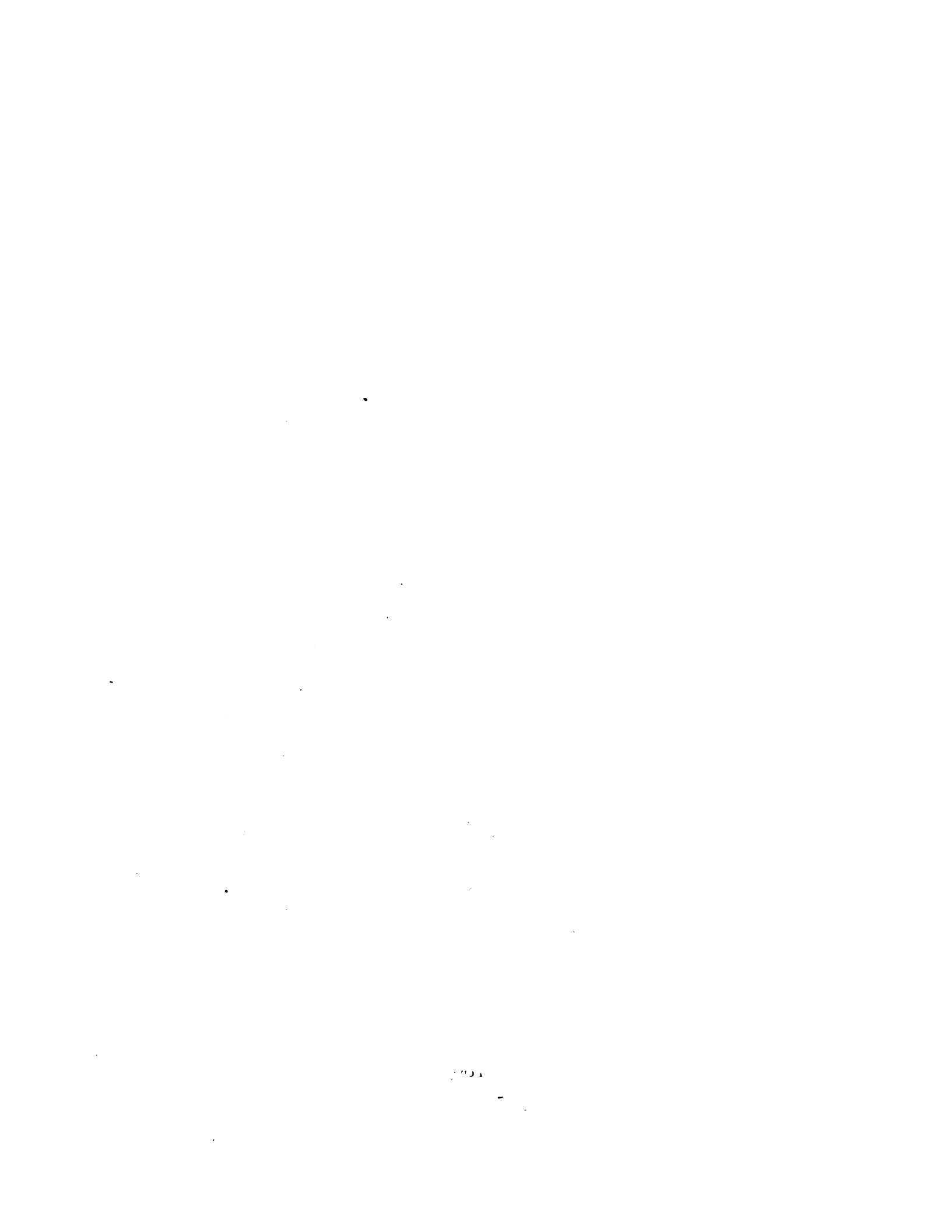
HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY,
LATE MEMBER OF HER MAJESTY'S INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

- I. Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. *Acts, xiv, 16.*
- II. Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold. *John, x, 16.*
- III. They are less to be blamed, for they peradventure seek God and desire to find Him. *Wisdom of Solomon, xiii, 6.*
- IV. He hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth . . . that they should seek the Lord, and find Him, though He be not far from every one of us. *Acts, xvii, 26, 27.*
- V. And the times of this ignorance God winked at, but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent. *Acts, xvii, 30.*
- VI. One God and Father of all. *Ephesians, iv, 6.*
- VII. The world by wisdom knew not God. *1 Cor. i, 21.*
- VIII. God, who at sundry times. *Hebrews, i, 1.*
- IX. No respecter of persons. *Acts, x, 34.*

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(ix)

And now my Summer-task is ended. Roll
Up all my papers, and my volumes close :
From parts divergent I have sought a whole,
Complete and perfect, as before me rose
The variant Message, which from Heaven's abode
Came down to earth to lead poor man to God.

Each Message but reveals th' unchanging plan
Of Love and Kindness to poor Humankind,
And, like a sunflower, turns the heart of man
Groping through darkness his soul's sun to find :
No cavern is so dark, but through the night
One ray streams in of God's eternal light.

As his forefathers did in Abraham's time,
Still by the stream the Brahmin chaunts his prayers ;
The Búddhist asks for nothing, but sublime
Emancipation from Life's dreary cares.
Oh ! could no Angel earth's hard path have trod
To whisper in his ear : " There is a God !"

Can we believe, that all-embracing Grace,
Which o'er Creation's waters used to glide,
Chose out one puny, graceless, Jewish Race,
And shut the gates of Hope on all beside :
Let them indulge their passions and their crimes
And raise up trophies to outlive all times ?

Búddha, Confucius, Plato, Socrates,
Left words of gold, which no age can destroy ;
They please, when all things else have ceased to please :
But of those holy men how great the joy,
Had God's own Message by their soul been heard ;
If one still voice their inward heart had stirred !