

ANIMISM, THE SEED OF RELIGION

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Animism, the Seed of Religion by Edward Clodd

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EDWARD CLODD

**ANIMISM, THE
SEED OF RELIGION**

RELIGIONS ANCIENT AND MODERN

ANIMISM

A N I M I S M
THE SEED OF RELIGION

By

EDWARD CLODD

AUTHOR OF

"THE STORY OF CREATION," "PIONEERS OF EVOLUTION," ETC., ETC

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PREFATORY NOTE

THIS little book contains more fact than comment, because the departure from the ordinary handling of the subject of Primitive Religion which it makes demands that the presentment of evidence shall precede theories of Origins.

The interconnection between subordinate parts and the main theme has rendered it impossible to avoid here and there crossing the margins of areas which will come under survey in other volumes of this series.

E. C.

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ANIMISM

1. Pre-human Elements in Religion. In an article on "Democracy and Reaction," in the *Nineteenth Century* of April, 1905, Mr. John Morley remarks that "if we want a platitude, there is nothing like a definition. Perhaps most definitions hang between platitude and paradox. There are said to be ten thousand definitions of Religion." One of these is supplied by Parson Thwackum in *Tom Jones*. "When I mention religion, I mean the Christian religion, and not only the Christian religion, but the Protestant religion, and not only the Protestant religion, but the Church of England." That easy-going cleric expressed what is in the minds of the majority of people when the word "religion" is used. He lived before the birth of the science of comparative theology; those who have applied its methods and profited