

**RELIGION WITHIN  
THE BOUNDARY OF  
PURE REASON**

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Religion Within the Boundary of Pure Reason by Immanuel Kant & J. W. Semple

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**IMMANUEL KANT & J. W. SEMPLE**

**RELIGION WITHIN  
THE BOUNDARY OF  
PURE REASON**



# RELIGION

WITHIN THE

## BOUNDARY OF PURE REASON.

BY

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To the Editor of  
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With the Translators' Compts

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C. CORNELIUS TACITUS

DE MORIBUS GERMANORUM.

HAUD DEFOIT Audentia GERMANICI SED OBSTITIT OCEANUS  
IN SE, SIMUL ATQUE IN HERCULEM INQUIR. MOX NEMO TENTAVIT.  
SANCTIUSQUE AC REVERENTIUS VISUM, DE ACTIS DEORUM CREDERE  
QUAM SCIRE.

## THE TRANSLATOR TO THE READER.

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DURING the six-and-forty years that FREDERICK THE GREAT reigned over Prussia, his subjects enjoyed unrestricted liberty of the press. But upon the death of that illustrious monarch in 1786, and the accession of F. William II., a different order of affairs began. An edict was published shortly after (in 1788), greatly hampering, or even suppressing, freedom of debate, especially in matters theological: and this edict had very nearly the effect of stifling Kant's work on religion. Kant had sent the first book to the Editor of the *Berlin Monthly Magazine*, and this part was allowed by the PHILOSOPHICAL censor, Mr G. R. Hillmer, to pass to the public, when it appeared in April 1792. Book II. was forwarded to Berlin, with the view of being published in some subsequent number. Upon reading it, however, Mr Hillmer considered the treatise theological, not philosophical, and therefore sent it for inspection to Mr O. C. R. Hermes, the THEOLOGIC censor, who most unhesitatingly refused his *imprimatur*, and took Book II.