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VOLUME 5

LEWIS RICHARD FARNELL



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THE CULTS
OF
THE GREEK STATES

BY
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IN FIVE VOLUMES

VOL. V

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

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HENRY FROWDE, M.A.
PUBLISHER TO THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
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P R E F A C E

WITH the publication of this volume the self-imposed task that has occupied my intervals of leisure throughout twenty years is at last completed. But the fulfilment of the promise of the title is incomplete; for it has happened, according to the anticipation expressed in the preface to my third volume, that no room could be found for a full account of hero-worship and the cults of the dead and of the various ideas thereto attaching. I hope to be able subsequently to publish in a different setting the various materials I have gathered under this head and the conclusions that I have drawn from them. Apart from this omission, a work of the present compass, carried on through so long a period of one's life, is scarcely likely in its final form to satisfy either the writer or his readers. I may hope, however, to have shown myself amenable to the influence of all criticism that was meant to be helpful, and of the newer theories that in recent years have presented the problems of ancient religion in a new light. Though it has absorbed more time than I had supposed it would demand, I rejoice to have chosen and pursued this theme, for I at least, if no one else, have derived from it both mental profit and pleasure. And I feel now the better fitted to labour in a somewhat wider field, as the Greek

religion, reflecting so vividly as it does both the higher and the lower workings of the religious sense, serves perhaps as the best point of departure for wider study of Comparative Religion.

The title of this treatise is an answer to the criticism that only a portion of Greek religion in its widest sense has been presented, the public and official part; this limitation, which has excluded the discussion of the philosophic speculations and of the private mystic religion of the later centuries, appeared necessary from practical considerations of space; and even as it stands the work may be regarded as too voluminous. Much of higher Greek thought and aspiration is indeed revealed in the study of the state-mysteries of Eleusis, which occupies a large part of the third volume. And for the rest I plead in defence of my choice of subject that the state-cults represent throughout a long period what was strongest and most attractive in the popular religion. No doubt in Greek polytheism there was a struggle in the crowd of personalities, and a survival of the fittest; certain weaker forms of divinity perished or lingered only as faded figures of myth. But what the people strongly clung to was taken up and organized by the community; and in the sphere of religious life and practice there was for many centuries little divorce between the individual and the state. Therefore the history of the state-cults is the main exposition of Greek religion and reflects in clear light the life of the Greek people, their migrations and settlements, their institutions of the countryside and village, of the family and clan and pre-eminently of the Polis, and

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finally their growth and achievements in law, morality, and art.

After much hesitation at the outset as to the most practical method of exposition, I have adopted that which most writers on polytheism have followed, the method of the separate treatment of each cult according to the personality and the divine name. Nor, though it has certain inconveniences, do I repent of my decision. For Greek religion, being eminently personal and anthropomorphic, was a galaxy of more or less clear personalities; and the divine names were words of power which attracted certain organic ideas. Also, the leading personalities of this religion were of long enduring life; and a more thoughtful review of the facts, especially of those which recently discovered inscriptions present, may save us from the error, to which certain writers and scholars seem prone, of antedating their decay and their extinction.

I feel, what every reader must, I fear, also feel, that a work of this length, so preoccupied with detail, ought to be concluded and clarified by a succinct summary of the main features and general phenomena of Greek polytheism; and it was my intention to have added one. But I was obliged to relinquish it, as the last volume has come to be disproportionately long. But I can refer the reader to my general article on 'Greek Religion' in the new edition of the *Times' Encyclopaedia*, and to my published Inaugural Lecture which I delivered in the earlier part of this year as Wilde Lecturer.

Finally, I render my grateful thanks to many friends

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PREFACE

and scholars who have helped me readily with their advice and discussion on many points of difficulty, and especially to Mr. Frost, of Brasenose College, for undertaking the laborious task of preparing the index.

LEWIS R. FARNELL.

September, 1909.

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* This work is not now to be found in the Conservatore Palace, where I saw it some years ago, and I have been therefore unable to give a plate of it.