

The Book of the Secrets of Enoch

By W. R. Morfill


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From *The Dublin Review*, Volume 119:

WE are indebted to Messrs. Morfill and Charles for this very interesting addition to the "apocalyptic" literature which in various ages and places has produced works as different and yet as like as the Book of Arda-i Viraf, the visions of St. Brendan and Tundal, and the Divine Comedy of Dante. The "Book of the Secrets of Enoch" has come down to us only in a Slavonic version of the original Hebrew or Ethiopic, and this has been carefully and literally translated by our "only Slavonic scholar," Mr. Morfill, whilst the excellent notes and commentary are supplied by his colleague, Mr. Charles. The entire volume deserves high praise for its accurate scholarship and its completeness. The curious derivation of the various elements of the human frame—flesh, blood, eyes, bones, thoughts, veins and hair, and spirit—from portions of the material universe, earth, dew, the sun, stone, clouds, grass, and wind, respectively—in c. xxx. § 8, is singularly suggestive of the *exactly opposite* derivation in certain Sanskrit and Pehlevi traditions, wherein natural substances are derived from portions of a human person; (see letter by Dr. L. C. Casartelli, in *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, pp. 202-203, 1895). The parallelism can hardly be accidental.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Robert Henry Charles (1855–1931) was an Irish biblical scholar and theologian. He is known particularly for English translations of apocryphal and pseudepigraphal works, and editions including Jubilees (1895), the Book of Enoch (1893), and the Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs (1908) which have been widely used. He wrote the articles in the 1911 Encyclopaedia Britannica attributed to the initials "R. H. C.".

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