

A closely related study would be that of *pain in the ethnic religions of the world*, which may only be suggested here.

The New Testament is the first book in which we perceive intelligent purpose, beneficent ordaining, ethical ends, in *Pain*. Except two or three stupendous and superhuman facts, Incarnation, Resurrection, Ascension, the most wonderful thing in the New Testament is its treatment of pain. The Christ, the Son of God, is a "man of sorrows and acquainted with grief," "made perfect through suffering;" and so our "afflictions work out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." Pain is no longer an emanation or instrument of a dark, inscrutable fate, some power of evil at enmity with God and all His creation. Pain corresponds to something in the being or attributes of God; brought to man by the angels and ministries of the Father of Spirits for the perfecting of the divine image in the heirs of salvation, the inheritors of eternal glory. There was no such conception of pain heretofore in the world. And this new conception profoundly modified not only the conception of life, but the actual life of those to whom it came. And so it changed the courses of civilization and the empire of earth came to its adherents.

The *Divina Comedia* is the greatest human drama of pain. Like the New Testament, it treats pain *ethically*. This is the secret of its matchless power and grandeur. As the New Testament stands apart from and above the sacred books of all other religions in its doctrine of pain, so does Dante's immortal poem stand separate from and above all other great works in literature in its conception and use of pain as literary material. Contrast with it Homer, the Greek Drama, Paradise Lost, or Faust.

Necessarily, psychology must give large consideration to so great an element as is pain in psychic life. For, ultimately, all pain is psychical. On the general psychology of pain, great thinkers have differed widely from the dawn of philosophy to the present day; and not even an epitome of their various theories of pain can be presented here.

All writers on psychology discuss pain and pleasure together; and this agrees with everyone's experience. Tennyson sings: