

away from the Eastern teacher. This author may well be a teacher of the West, at least on the side of appreciation of the best to be found in Buddhism's most progressive sect.

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**Der Sterbende und Auferstehende Gottheiland in den Orientalischen Religionen und ihr Verhältnis zum Christentum.** Von Lic. Dr. Martin Brückner, Berlin. Tübingen, 1908. Verlag von J. C. B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck).

This little pamphlet of forty-eight pages is volume 16 of series 1 of *Religionsgeschichte Volksbücher für die deutsche Christliche Gegenwart*. They are a sort of "present day tracts" for indoctrinating the people in critical religious thought. While emphatically professing not to be *tendenz-schriften*, they lend themselves fully to the suspicion of a radical, rationalist purpose.

Surely if religions in general, and oriental religions in particular, have the idea of a dying and risen Saviour Christianity cannot wish to be ignorant of the facts. It will then remain to interpret the significance of the facts. On first thought surely this fact will suggest doubt as to the historical reliability and worth of the New Testament Jesus. It is open to the Christian, however, as this author suggests, to find in this wide-spread idea the basis for preaching the complete doctrine in Christianity. But before all this will be the prior question as to the trustworthiness of the claim thus thrust upon us. If a Divine Saviour, dying and rising again is to be found in Oriental religions generally, in Babylonian, Phœnician, Asia Minor, Greek, Egyptian and Persian faith it is a little strange that so remarkable a fact is so slow coming into general knowledge. At least one may challenge the claim with questions as to how far this fact is fundamental and how far superficial; as to the critical character of the documents relied on for the testimony; as to how far it may be possible that the legends are a reflex from Christian literature and tradition. In a word a deal of critical thought will be required to make such a claim trustworthy, and it is just this critical handling of the material that is wanting in this discussion.

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