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[THE

THEOSOPHIST

A MAGAZINE OF

Oriental Philosophy, Art, Literature and Occultism,

CONDUCTED BY

H. P. BLAVATSKY.

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VOL. IX.  
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MADRAS:

PUBLISHED BY THE PROPRIETORS, ADYAR.

LONDON: GEORGE REDWAY, 15 YORK STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

MDCCCLXXXVIII.

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N. B.—The numbers of pp. 83 to 99 are wrongly printed as 33 to 49.

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THE THEOSOPHIST.

VOL. IX. No. 97.—OCTOBER 1887.

सत्यात् नास्ति परो धर्मः ।

THERE IS NO RELIGION HIGHER THAN TRUTH.

[Family motto of the Maharajahs of Benares.]

TRAVESTIED TEACHINGS.

THE ELOHISTIC KOSMOGONY.

HAS the last word been said about the Elohistic Kosmogony? Hardly. Nor will it be until the form in which the Kosmogony was originally handed down has been realised. That form was pictorial. The several stages of terrestrial evolution were presented to the mind of the seer as visions. These he re-produced as pictures. The depicted visions needed interpretation. This interpretation was given orally and transmitted by tradition. Hence for the right understanding of the pictures the oral tradition was necessary. Now this oral tradition was liable to change, and should the pictures it interpreted be lost sight of for a time would simultaneously disappear.

But nothing was more likely in the unsettled state of the earlier races of mankind than that this should happen. And then on the recovery of the depicted Kosmogony, probably from the walls of some ancient temple, the pictures would be re-interpreted in accordance with the then accepted views.

Such a re-interpretation in ideographic form is the authentic Elohistic Kosmogony. And by the authentic Kosmogony I mean the original or unpointed Hebrew copy, which still maintains its official character as the only text authorized to be publicly read in the synagogues.

But this ideographic re-interpretation, owing to its vowelless structure, itself required interpretation, and had to be read through an oral tradition. Now history shows that the Pentateuch was lost sight of on at least one occasion (2 Kings xxii. 8, 2 Chron. xxxiv, 14) for a considerable time; and the necessity for pointing the unpointed text more than suggests that, its traditional interpretation having been lost, an ingeniously devised reading was affixed thereunto by the vowel points. And it was through

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