VANITY FAIR JULY 1916

Review of The Book of Lies

In the famous "Book of Lies," one of the best modern treatises on mysticism, by Frata Perdurabo, the author fills his first page with a question-mark, and the reverse of it with a mark of exclamation, signifying that the Universe has two phases, scepticism and mysticism, and that these two are equal and opposite, and therefore One. His first chapter he calls "The Chapter which is not a chapter," and begins it with the sign: O!

He means, by the O, the infinitely large; by the \odot the infinitely small; and, by the straight line, the manifested universe, the result of the interplay of the first two. He then descends to our inferior understanding by using mere words, and describes "The Ante Primal Triad which is NOT-GOD" in these simple but elegant terms:

"Nothing is.

Nothing becomes.

Nothing is not."

Of course, when Nothing is not, Something is; so we reach "The First Triad, which is ${\sf GOD}$," which begins "I AM."

There are many other chapters to excite wonder in this little volume. Here are some additional phrases: It is not necessary to understand; it is enough to adore. The God may be of clay; adore him and he becomes GOD. We ignore what created us; we adore what we create. Let us create nothing but GOD! That which causes us to create is our true father and mother; we create in our own image —which is theirs. Let us therefore create without fear; for we can create nothing that is not GOD.

And this is from the chapter called "Phaeton":

"No. Yes. Perhaps. O! Eye. I. Hi! Y! No. Hail! This chapter needs no explanation; it is evidently a perfect synopsis and solution of the great Philosophical, Mystical and Ethical Problem which has always, and will always, baffle MAN.

—Vanity Fair, July 1916.