

THE STAR IN THE WEST

be found. To cultivate that state of individual consciousness is the work not alone of either the philosopher or poet; rather, it is that of him who, whether in verse or prose, seeks to garb the scientific data offering the base and the inductive and deductive inferences serving as the reasoned conclusions of philosophy in the imagery of poetic interpretations. For, at bottom, all being is mystical; and the transcendental, and even paradoxical metaphysics of the Orient play their part in the tuning of the soul to harmony as much as does the scientific and closely-reasoned philosophy of the West. The truth-seeker's method must be that of science, and traditions must play no part in indicating final conclusions, or even in prejudicing the couching of the terms in which first premises are stated. But at every step of the path he treads, the way must needs be lighted with the transcendental rays of the metaphysical luminary of inner-consciousness. In the ultimate, it is reasoning which violates the validity of reason.

This is the work of the poet, who has learnt, out of the sorrowing depths of his own experience, to interpret the anguish of like souls. Such a poet is Aleister Crowley, one's understanding of whom is considerably helped by the present essay of Captain Fuller. However brilliant the criticism, or succinct the summary, it cannot possibly do