

Bible. My impression ~~if~~ of it is that it is a remarkable conception, considering the time when it was written. But I think that it can hardly be denied that the cosmology of the ancient Hebrews is only the ~~nearest~~ ^{closest} god, compared with the sweeping grandeur of the picture revealed by modern science. This leads me to ask the question, "Is it in any way reasonable to suppose that it was given to the Hebrews to understand the ~~mystery~~ ^{mysteries} far deeper than anything we can comprehend?" when it is quite clear that they were completely ignorant of many matters that seem common-place to us. "No, it seems to me that religion is but a desperate attempt to find an escape from their ~~truly~~ ^{he thinks} truly dreadful situation in which we find ourselves." Isn't it interesting that ~~we~~ ^{he} find ourselves in a truly dreadful situation. But he says religion is a desperate attempt to escape. Here we are in this wholly fantastic universe with scarcely a clue as to whether our existence has any real significance. No wonder then that many people feel the need for some relief that gives them some sense of security, and no wonder that they become very angry with people like me who say that this security is illusion. But I do not like the situation any better than they do. The difference is that I cannot see how the smallest advantage can be gained from deceiving myself. We are rather in the situation of a man in a desperate, difficult position ~~situation~~ on a steep mountain. A materialist is like a man who becomes crag fast (?) and keeps on shouting, "I am safe," because he doesn't fall off. You see he is very much against materialism, and he says the materialist just hangs to the ~~crag~~ ^{crag}, and keeps shouting, "I am safe, I am safe," because he doesn't fall off. The religious person is like a man who goes to the other extreme and rushes up the first route that shows the faintest hope of escape and who is entirely reckless at the yawning precipices that lie below, but he goes on to say that his hope in the matter is, ^{that is we} "Keep on with our scientific