The Thinker's Library, No. 52.

FIVE STAGES OF GREEK RELIGION

Studies based on a Course of Lectures delivered in April 1912 at Columbia University

BY

GILBERT MURRAY

REGIUS PROFESSOR OF GREEK IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

LONDON:

WATTS & CO.,

5 & 6 JOHNSON'S COURT, FLEET STREET, EC.4
First published in this form, 1923
Second impression 1943
Third impression 1946
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

"FIVE STAGES OF GREEK RELIGION" was first published by the Delegates of the Clarendon Press, Oxford, in association with the Columbia University Press, New York; and The Rationalist Press Association Ltd. desires to acknowledge the courtesy of the Delegates in authorizing its inclusion in the Thinker's Library.
PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

In revising the *Four Stages of Greek Religion* I have found myself obliged to change its name. I felt there was a gap in the story. The high-water mark of Greek religious thought seems to me to have come just between the Olympian Religion and the Failure of Nerve; and the decline—if that is the right word—which is observable in the later ages of antiquity is a decline not from Olympianism but from the great spiritual and intellectual effort of the fourth century B.C., which culminated in the *Metaphysics* and the *De Anima* and the foundation of the Stoa and the Garden. Consequently I have added a new chapter at this point and raised the number of Stages to five.

My friend Mr. E. E. Genner has kindly enabled me to correct two or three errors in the first edition, and I owe special thanks to my old pupil, Professor E. R. Dodds, for several interesting observations and criticisms on points connected with Plotinus and Sallustius. Otherwise I have altered little. I am only sorry to have left the book so long out of print.

G. M.