

Man and his Destiny in the Great Religions

By S. G. F. Brandon, Professor of Comparative Religion in the University of Manchester; Manchester University Press, 1962, pp. 442.

"Starting with the first intimation pursued through the cultures of of man's evaluation of himself in ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Israel, the Palaeolithic Age, the theme is Greece, Early Christianity, Islam,

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Hinduism, Buddhism, and China. In turn the various ideas that have been held concerning the constitution of human nature, of man's place and purpose in the universe of his experience, and of his ultimate destiny are surveyed. The approach is primarily historical; but comparative reference is constant, and a final chapter endeavours to co-ordinate and sum up the findings of the survey. Special attention is also given to the causes of the notably different evaluations of

human nature and destiny which have emerged from the ancient Near East and from India. The work is thoroughly documented, and the extensive bibliographies provide valuable references for further research in this important field of study.

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