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## **A GENTLE CYNIC: BEING A TRANSLATION OF THE BOOK OF KOHELETH COMMONLY KNOWN AS ECCLESIASTES STRIPPED OF LATER ADDITIONS ALSO ITS ORIGIN, GROWTH AND INTERPRETATION (PAPERBACK)**

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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, 2018. Paperback. Condition: New. Translation. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Professor Jastrow has written a popular commentary on this most charming and intensely human book of the Old Testament. He sees in the anonymous author of Koheleth a man who loves life and has intense sympathy with the struggles and sufferings of humanity, but who smiles at reformers with a tolerant cynicism, and never, in the midst of the fullest enjoyment of life, allows the irony of life to escape his thought. The last word is always-Vanity. Koheleth s skepticism is not truculent and aggressive. He is among the prophets and theologians of Judaism like Anatole France among the missionaries and exegetes of today -- dismissing the whole laborious structure of theodicy by the non liquet in rejoinder to its prime premises. In an introduction covering over three-fourths of the book, Professor Jastrow discusses (often with unnecessary repetitions) the authorship of Koheleth, its place in the sacred canon, and the views of the gentle cynic on labor, politics, religion, wealth, women and pleasure. There follows a translation of the book, with critical notes justifying Professor Jastrow s reconstruction of the text. And, finally, there is an appendix containing the additions to the book by pious commentators, by proverb mongers, and by miscellaneous glossators. This arrangement offers the author the temptation, too little resisted, to tautology. We meet the same reflections in the introduction, in the notes to the text, and in the discussion of the glosses in the appendix. For example, the interpretation of the famous passage on the golden bowl and the silver cord appears at least three times in different parts of the book. Professor Jastrow could easily have put what he has to say in half the number...

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