

II

The Essence of Goodness

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*Shinshu*¹ or the True Religion is, as the name indicates, a religion founded upon Truth. Within us we have a *hope* which always walks in front of our narrow experience; it is the undying *faith* in the *deepest truth* in us. Facts are many, but *truth* is *one*, and to find out the One is to possess the All. Through all the diversities of the world, the *one* in us is ever seeking unity—unity in knowledge, unity in love, unity in purposes of will, and

¹ The literal meaning of the Japanese word *Shinshu* is “True (*Shin*) Religion (*shu*).”

its highest joy is when it reaches the One in all within its Eternal Unity. Were it not that the deeper roots of our nature find their permanent soil in the One Central Truth, then our consciousness would ever be restricted only to the immediate vicinity of the narrow present, and we would miss our inner perspective; then all opposites would ever remain opposites, and we could never find an *inner medium* through which our differences could ever tend to meet; then we could have no understanding, no blending of hearts, no cooperation in life.

Man is more in *truth* than he is in *fact*. Essentially, we are *spirit*. We belong not to this world, in so far as our sense and our understanding now show us this world. We even now belong to a higher and richer realm than this. Therefore, we have a feeling that we are much more than at present we seem to be, that the state not yet experienced by us is more *real* and *true*