From the first hints of the subject in Vedic times, expanding into fuller presentation in the days of the Upanishads, Indian thinkers have meditated and philosophers have expounded upon the question of immortality. Does man have an immortal existence? Or is life on earth "the play of the gods" as some have called it? Is there a heaven? If so, who goes there, and when and how? Is immortality simply merging in complete union with the Immortal Being? Does personality survive death? Will we meet again in immortal vigor those who have wasted away on earth? Will we recognize our friends of earth beyond death?

Modern Indian philosophers and influential thinkers since Ram Mohun Roy have sought to reason out the answers to some of these questions. It is not the aim of this paper to present the ideas of every one who has written, but the opinions of some of the most influential. Generally, it will be found that modern writers do not differ greatly from the times of the Upanishads, but possibly as the result of Moslem and Christian influences there are some new ideas and amplifications. The paper was begun and pursued under the direction of Dr. V. S. Naravane, former head of the Philosophy Department of Poona University. His suggestions have helped to shape the material into its present form. A brief epilogue is given setting forth the actual Bible teaching on the immortality of the soul and the nature of man. This is done partly because the Bible teaches how the belief in Immortality came, and partly for the sake of contrast, since the early books of the Bible are among the oldest written by man. It is worthy of note that none of the great religions of mankind in their earliest records clearly teach the idea of an immortal soul. To trace the origin of the belief apart from what the Bible teaches, might well be a fruitful field of study; that, however, is another chapter and is beyond the purview of this paper.