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| Frazer, Sir James George (1 January, 1854–7 May, 1941) |
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| James Frazer was a Scottish classicist, social theorist, anthropologist, and historian of religion. He was a Fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge University. In addition to his influential entries in the *Encyclopedia Britannica* (e.g., ‘Taboo’, ‘Totem’), Frazer published voluminous translations, editions, and monographs in the fields of classics (e.g., *Pausanias’s Description of Greece* [1898], an edition of Ovid’s *Fasti* [1929]), religion (e.g., *Lectures on the Early History of the Kingship* [1905], *Totemism and Exogamy* [1910]), and biblical studies (e.g., *Folk-Lore in the Old Testament* [1918]).  Frazer is best known for his massive enterprise in comparative religion and mythology, *The Golden Bough* (*GB*). Although it was originally published in two volumes (1890), *GB* subsequently expanded into three volumes (2nd ed., 1900), and then into twelve volumes (3rd ed., 1911–1915). An abridged volume was published in 1922 and a thirteenth volume (*Aftermath*) appeared in 1936. Although *GB* is marked by copious data woven into numerous digressions and excursions, it revolves around the ritual slaying of the priest of Diana who kept watch over the sacred tree in the grove of Nemi. |
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| Further reading:  (Ackerman)  (Besterman)  (Frazer)  (Leach)  (Smith)  (Vickery) |