

**THE LIFE OF REASON; OR,
THE PHASES OF
HUMAN PROGRESS.
REASON IN SENSE. [1921]**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649634613

The Life of Reason; Or, The Phases of Human Progress. Reason in Sense. [1921] by George Santayana

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

GEORGE SANTAYANA

**THE LIFE OF REASON; OR,
THE PHASES OF
HUMAN PROGRESS.
REASON IN SENSE. [1921]**

THE LIFE OF REASON

BY GEORGE SANTAYANA

THE LIFE OF REASON: or the Phases of
Human Progress

- I. INTRODUCTION AND REASON IN COMMON SENSE
- II. REASON IN SOCIETY
- III. REASON IN RELIGION
- IV. REASON IN ART
- V. REASON IN SCIENCE

THE SENSE OF BEAUTY

INTERPRETATIONS OF POETRY AND RELIGION

A HERMIT OF CARMEL AND OTHER POEMS

WINDS OF DOCTRINE

CHARACTER AND OPINIONS IN THE UNITED
STATES

LITTLE ESSAYS DRAWN FROM THE WORKS OF
GEORGE SANTAYANA. By LOGAN PEARSALL
SMITH, with the collaboration of the Author.
1220.

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

THE LIFE OF REASON

OR THE
PHASES OF HUMAN PROGRESS

BY
GEORGE SANTAYANA

REASON IN SCIENCE

ἡ γὰρ τοῦ ἐνέργεια ζωῆ

NEW YORK
CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

1921

22-9

COPYRIGHT, 1905, BY
CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

Published, February, 1905

THE SCRIBNER PRESS

545
S2 L6
45

CONTENTS

REASON IN SCIENCE

CHAPTER I

TYPES AND AIMS OF SCIENCE

Science still young.—Its miscarriage in Greece.—Its timid reappearance in modern times.—Distinction between science and myth.—Platonic status of hypothesis.—Meaning of verification.—Possible validity of myths.—Any dreamed-of thing might be experienced.—But science follows the movement of its subject-matter.—Moral value of science.—Its continuity with common knowledge.—Its intellectual essence.—Unity of science.—In existence, judged by reflection, there is a margin of waste.—Sciences converge from different points of origin.—Two chief kinds of science, physics and dialectic.—Their mutual implication.—Their coöperation.—No science *a priori*.—Rôle of criticism.

Pages 3-38

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

History an artificial memory.—Second sight requires control.—Nature the theme common to various memories.—Growth of legend.—No history without documents.—The aim is truth.—Indirect methods of attaining it.—Historical research a part of physics.—Verification here indirect.—Futile ideal to survey all facts.—Historical theory.—It is arbitrary.—A moral critique of the past is possible.—How it might be just.—Transition to historical romance.—Possibility of genuine epics.—Literal truth abandoned.—History exists to be transcended.—Its great rôle.

Pages 39-65

CHAPTER III

MECHANISM

Recurrent forms in nature.—Their discovery makes the flux calculable.—Looser principles tried first.—Mechanism for the most part hidden.—Yet presumably pervasive.—Inadequacy of consciousness.—Its articulation inferior to that of its objects.—Science consequently retarded, and speculation rendered necessary.—Dissatisfaction with mechanism partly natural, and partly artificial.—Biassed judgments inspired by moral inertia.—Positive emotions proper to materialism.—The material world not dead nor ugly, nor especially cruel.—Mechanism to be judged by its fruits. Pages 69-94

CHAPTER IV

HESITATIONS IN METHOD

Mechanism restricted to one-half of existence.—Men of science not speculative.—Confusion in semi-moral subjects.—“*Physic of metaphysic begs defence.*”—Evolution by mechanism.—Evolution by ideal attraction.—If species are evolved they cannot guide evolution.—Intrusion of optimism.—Evolution according to Hegel.—The conservative interpretation.—The radical one.—Megalomania.—Chaos in the theory of mind.—Origin of self-consciousness.—The notion of spirit.—The notion of sense.—Competition between the two.—The rise of scepticism. Pages 95-125

CHAPTER V

PSYCHOLOGY

Mind reading not science.—Experience a reconstruction.—The honest art of education.—Arbitrary readings of the mind.—Human nature appealed to rather than described.—Dialectic in psychology.—Spinoza on the passions.—A principle of estimation cannot govern events.—Scientific psychology a part of biology.—Confused attempt to detach the psychic element.—Differencia of the psychic.—Approach to irrelevant sentience.—Perception represents things in their practical relation to the body.—Mind the

existence in which form becomes actual.—Attempt at idealistic physics.—Association not efficient.—It describes coincidences.—Understanding is based on instinct and expressed in dialectic.—Suggestion a fancy name for automatism, and will another.—Double attachment of mind to nature.—Is the subject-matter of psychology absolute being?—Sentience is representable only in fancy.—The conditions and objects of sentience, which are not sentience, are also real.—Mind knowable and important in so far as it represents other things. Pages 126-166

CHAPTER VI

THE NATURE OF INTENT

Dialectic better than physics.—Maladjustments to nature render physics conspicuous and unpleasant.—Physics should be largely virtual, and dialectic explicit.—Intent is vital and indescribable.—It is analogous to flux in existence.—It expresses natural life.—it has a material basis.—It is necessarily relevant to earth.—The basis of intent becomes appreciable in language.—Intent starts from a datum, and is carried by a feeling.—It demands conventional expression.—A fable about matter and form. Pages 167-186

CHAPTER VII

DIALECTIC

Dialectic elaborates given forms.—Forms are abstracted from existence by intent.—Confusion comes of imperfect abstraction, or ambiguous intent.—The fact that mathematics applies to existence is empirical.—Its moral value is therefore contingent.—Quantity submits easily to dialectical treatment.—Constancy and progress in intent.—Intent determines the functional essence of objects.—Also the scope of ideals.—Double status of mathematics.—Practical rôle of dialectic.—Hegel's satire on dialectic.—Dialectic expresses a given intent.—Its empire is ideal and autonomous. Pages 187-209