

**THE LAND OF
LIVING MEN**

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The Land of Living Men by Ralph Waldo Trine

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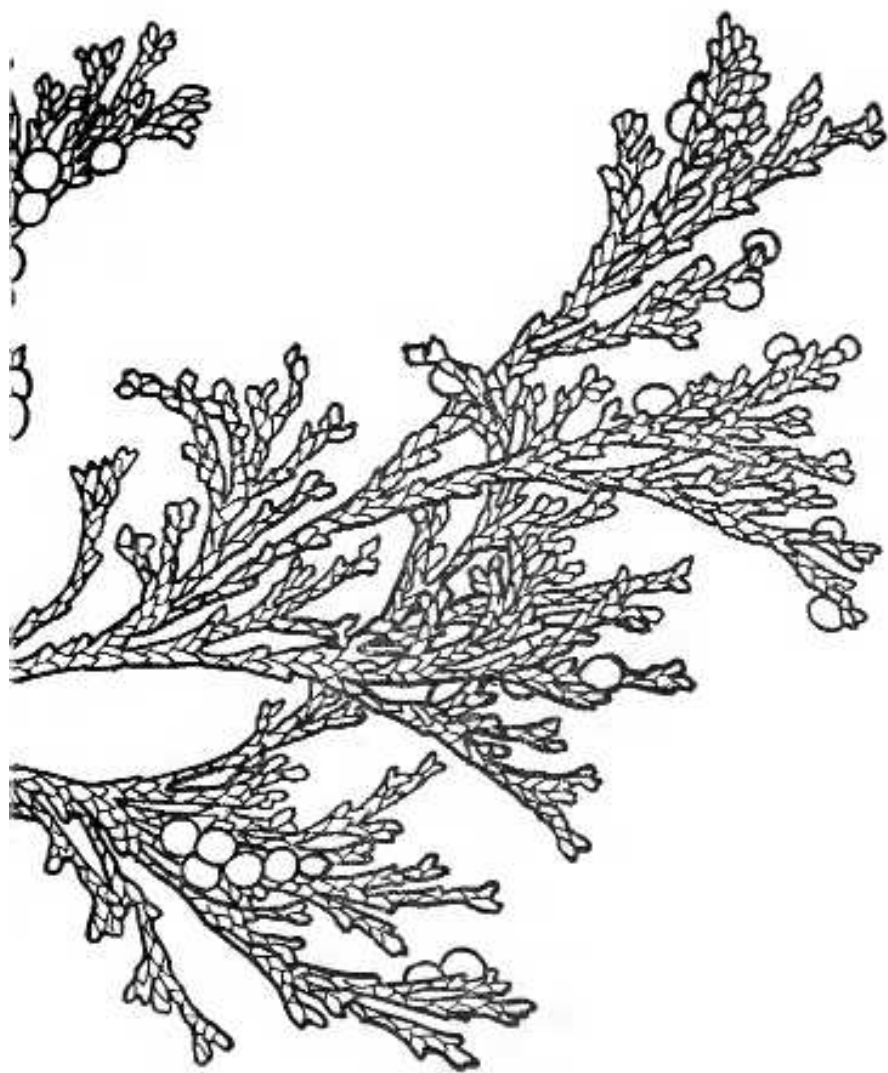
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RALPH WALDO TRINE

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By RALPH WALDO TRINE



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A FOREWORD

There are certain forces and certain problems of our common human life that are of interest to practically every reader — the attaining to an habitually happy or peaceful state of mind; the development of personal power or attractiveness, of feature or of form, of physical or of spiritual attractiveness; the gaining or the regaining and the enjoyment of sound bodily health and vigour; the attaining to a state of independence, that the old debt may be paid or the old favour repaid, or that the long-desired, and, as we believe, well-deserved good, may be had; or even of being sure of sufficient food and clothing and shelter, that we may be free from want or the uncertainty or the fear of want — that the bill may be paid, and promptly, when the pay-day returns — and after all, the bread and butter problem is the problem of ninety-nine out of every hundred during this our common journey. .

Now it is said that people are interested in matters, and in books that deal with matters, that pertain to their individual or personal good or gain, or, in books that afford amusement or entertainment — fiction, etc. They are not, it is said, interested, except to a very limited extent, in books that deal with our common relations, social, economic, governmental, in matters of community, village, city, state and nation. There is truth in this statement; and it is quite natural that we

be interested primarily, at least in our present state of development, in matters that pertain to our own personal good or gain.

We do not seem to realize, or fully, yet, however, the great individual loss we sustain by our folly in allowing others to do our governing for us, or presumably for us, instead of being long-headed and practical enough to attend to our own affairs along these lines, thereby keeping in our own possession the *untold wealth* that, through our own negligence or short sightedness or weakness, now goes annually into the possession of the few who make matters of government, or the manipulation of the agencies and various agents of government, their business — the men who belong to the class, as has been aptly said, find it highly profitable, not to farm the farms, but to farm the farmers.

That there is corruption, or mismanagement and gross waste and consequent loss *to us all* under our present methods and in our present conditions, that there are high charges with a minimum of service, that the cost of living is growing always higher and in far greater proportion than is our increasing means to meet these costs, is now profoundly, and in many cases, pinchingly, evident to all. The fault however lies in ourselves, and the remedy for this state of affairs is completely and absolutely in our own hands.

It is after all a matter that comes home to every individual in a very personal and practical manner as to whether or not he takes an intelligent and active interest in matters of government. The time has come when it is the imperative duty of every man and every

woman to become quickly conversant with and to take an active personal interest and part in these affairs, and any life is but half a life that neglects or that fails in this.

Again, the complaint is sometimes entered that so many times books dealing with matters along these lines deal with them in a manner so abstract, so involved, or so academic, that they are not of sufficient interest to draw the average reader to them; and again it is said that some books, most excellent and most valuable in themselves, deal with such limited phases of these matters that scarcely a reader out of a thousand, or one out of ten thousand, has the time to become conversant with them, that while they are undoubtedly of great value to the special student or worker, they are practically valueless to the average reader — and it is the average reader that in the aggregate determines the conditions and the destinies of all governments such as ours.

Realizing the large degree of truth in the foregoing statements, and the great need that calls at the door of each of us, it is the aim in this volume to present in as concrete and as clear-cut — and it must be confessed, as interesting a manner as possible — a survey of the conditions that exist amongst us, some of which are causing us tremendous loss and that are undermining the very foundations of free and efficient government; also the chief causes of these conditions coming among us, and the agencies still at work quietly and subtly increasing and aiming to perpetuate them; and also methods — some of which have proven abundantly