

**A TRUE ESTIMATE OF  
HUMAN LIFE. IN WHICH THE  
PASSIONS ARE CONSIDERED  
IN A NEW LIGHT**

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A True Estimate of Human Life. In Which the Passions Are Considered in a New Light by E. Young

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**E. YOUNG**

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*Edward Young D.D.*

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A  
TRUE ESTIMATE  
OF  
HUMAN LIFE.

IN WHICH  
*THE PASSIONS*  
ARE CONSIDERED IN A NEW LIGHT.

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*BY E. YOUNG, LL.D.*

RECTOR OF WELWYN IN HERTFORDSHIRE, AND AUTHOR OF  
THE NIGHT THOUGHTS, &c. &c.

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*NOT INSERTED IN HIS WORKS.*

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FOURTH EDITION:  
WITH THE LIFE OF THE AUTHOR.

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1802.

SKETCH  
OF THE  
MEMOIRS  
OF  
DR. EDWARD YOUNG.

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Henceforth  
Thy *Patron* ME—whose diadem has dropt,  
You gems of heaven—Eternity thy prize,  
And leave the racers of the world their own!

NIGHT THOUGHTS.

IN republishing this valuable little piece, we have determined that it shall be accompanied by the Memoirs of its Author, whose memory ought to be cherished with reverence and gratitude. Numerous were the efforts of his pen—he devoted his extraordinary talents to the instruction and entertainment of mankind.

EDWARD YOUNG was a native of Upham, near Winchester, and was born there in the year 1681. His father was a clergyman, and enjoyed several church preferments. He died Dean of Sarum, after

having maintained a very respectable character through life, both as a scholar and as a divine. Bishop Burnet laments his death in terms which shew him to have been an ornament to his profession. "He still lives," says that Prelate, "in the many excellent directions he has left us both how to live and how to die."

YOUNG received the first part of his education at Winchester, and then removed to Oxford for its completion. At this famous seat of the Muses, he appears to have resided a great many years, passing through various situations, with a degree of celebrity. Fond of literature, he pursued his studies with eagerness; and even at that early period, would indulge himself in flights of poetry.

After several little pieces had been composed, and even published, he, in 1713, brought out his poem of the *Last Day*, which was honoured with a very general admiration. Being the production of a Layman, it was the more extolled, and is *certainly* a composition highly creditable



to his talents and piety. The sentiments are noble ; the expressions animated ; and calculated to produce serious and awful impressions. No person of the least reflection can read the poem, without anticipating the period when to use the language of sacred writ—*God shall judge the world in righteousness!*

His *Force of Religion, or Vanquished Love*, was the next publication our Author sent into the world. It is founded on the death of Lady Jane Grey, an appropriate subject for tragedy.—The dedication of this piece to the Countess of Salisbury, was full of flattery ; he was in the habit of paying his respects to the great, and sometimes, we fear, at the expence of integrity.

About the year 1717, it is thought that Young visited Ireland, along with the Marquis of Wharton, an indifferent character, but a pretended patron of literature. Here our poet and Swift came together, and we presume, enjoyed each other's company—though the Dean of

St. Patrick, speaking of the Court, has these lines in some part of his works :

Whence Gay was banish'd in disgrace,  
Where Pope will never shew his face,  
Where Y—— must torture his invention,  
To flatter knaves, or lose his pension!

It is also reported, that Young visited the Continent, and there saw a *field of battle*, which must have deeply affected his serious mind. A sight at all times afflictive to humanity, must have struck his soul most forcibly, who seems to have been fond of dwelling on the dark side of humanity!

Two tragedies next appeared, at the distance of two or three years, *Busiris*, and the *Revenge*, which latter enjoys an unvarying reputation. It is still acted with applause.—It has very successfully delineated the passion of *Revenge*—*Zanga* is a character, at whose expressions and deeds we shudder with horror! We behold the effects of his rage with indignation.

His *Satires* now call for our attention, they are very ingenious and impressive

productions. They were published at different times, under the title of the *Universal Passion*. They were gathered into one volume, about the year 1728. They display a wonderful knowledge of human nature, and are replete with sagacious reflections on the general manners of mankind. The sentiments are indeed couched in terms so pointed, that the perusal of such spirited pieces, cannot fail of leaving an impression on the heart. For this production, the poet obtained altogether, upwards of *two thousand pounds*, which circumstance shews that it was well received, and must have contributed very much towards the prosperity of the Author, though he usually complained of the world.

Upon the accession of *George the Second*, Young tuned his lyre anew, and produced a poem, entitled, *Ocean*, an Ode, concluding with a *Wish*.—With respect to the occasion of its composition, the king had in his speech very humanely remarked, that in the encouragement of seamen, they should be *invited*, rather than *com-*