

**THE ART OF CREATION:
ESSAYS ON THE SELF
AND ITS POWERS**

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The Art of Creation: Essays on the Self and Its Powers by Edward Carpenter

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By Edward Carpenter
Author of “Towards Democracy,” “Civilisation,”
etc. etc.

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"These two things, the spiritual and the material, though we call them by different names, in their Origin are one and the same."

—LAO-TZŪ.

"When a new desire has declared itself in the human heart, when a new plexus is forming among the nerves, then the revolutions of nations are already decided, and histories unwritten are written."

—TOWARDS DEMOCRACY.

PREFACE

WE seem to be arriving at a time when, with the circling of our knowledge of the globe, a great synthesis of all human thought on the ancient and ever-engrossing problem of Creation is quite naturally and inevitably taking shape. The world-old wisdom of the Upanishads, with their profound and impregnable doctrine of the universal Self, the teachings of Buddha or of Lao-tzŭ, the poetic insight of Plato, the inspired sayings of Jesus and Paul, the speculations of Plotinus, or of the Gnostics, and the wonderful contributions of later European thought, from the fourteenth century mystics down through Spinoza, Berkeley, Kant, Hegel, Schopenhauer, Ferrier and others; all these, combining with the immense mass of material furnished by modern physical and biological Science, and Psychology, are preparing a great birth, as it were; and out of