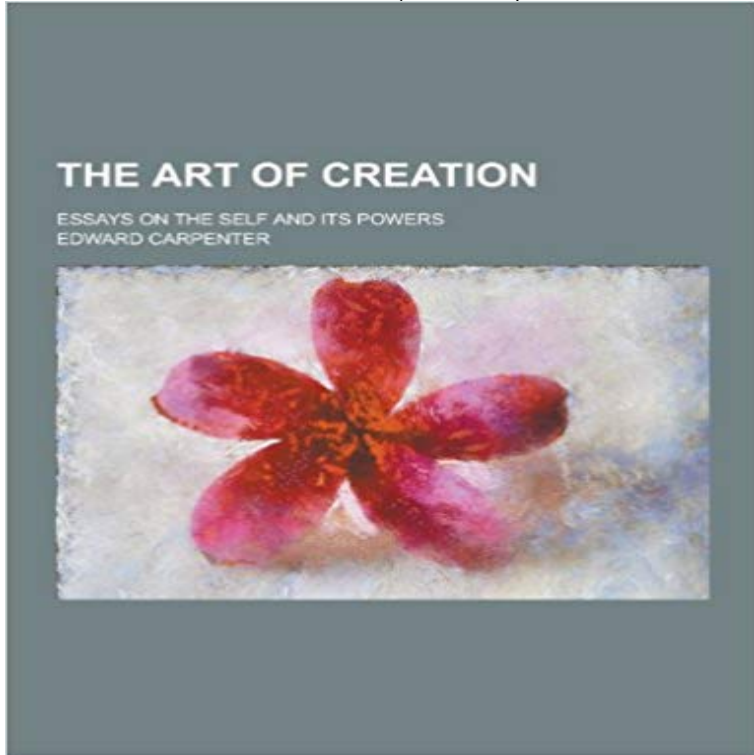


The Art of Creation; Essays on the Self and Its Powers



This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1904 edition. Excerpt: ... THE ART OF CREATION PRELIMINARY Related Motion seems to be, as suggested by the words Attraction and Repulsion, Gravitation, Chemical Affinity, and so forth, the ground-fact of inorganic Nature. And it seems also to be the ground and foundation of Life. The protoplasmic jelly moves towards or away from substances in its neighborhood, and this appears to be its fundamental property. The most primitive cellular organisms act in the same way. Some seek light, others flee from it. Paramecium is drawn towards slightly acid substances, and flies from alkalis. Actynophrys is attracted by starch; and so on.¹ There appears to be a kind of choice or elective affinity; and the learned are divided on the subject into two schools--those who, like Binet, see in these movements of protozoa the germinal characteristics of human intelligence, and those who class them as merely chemical and automatic reactions. ¹ See Th. Ribot, Psychology of the Emotions, Contemporary Science Series, p. 4. Also H. S. Jennings, Psychology of a Protozoan, American Journal of Psychology, vol. x. It is not our business here to draw the line of division. It is sufficient to see that on the very lowest rung of the ladder of life, and at a point where it is difficult to distinguish its laws from those of chemistry, such words as we are forced to use--words like Attraction, Repulsion, Affinity --have a double meaning, covering both material and mental, external and internal, affections. Even the word Motion itself passes easily into E-motion. And modern psychology and physiology have made it abundantly clear that every feeling or emotion in the mind means motion of some

kind in the tissues or fluids of the body.
Some of our highest and most complex
emotions take the...

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