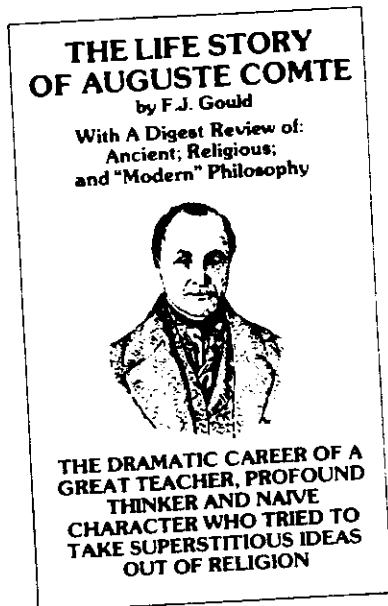


# THE LIFE-STORY OF AUGUSTE COMTE WITH A DIGEST REVIEW OF: ANCIENT; RELIGIOUS; AND "MODERN" PHILOSOPHY



This newly released edition by the American Atheist Press is a reference text that should be in the hands of every Atheist. Indeed, it is important reading for *any* person — even those with oyster-like mentalities who sally back and forth between "belief" and "non-belief."

In a broad sense it is an exposé of *philosophy* — laying before you the timeless rantings of "scholars" of the past, those who indemnified themselves with academic "degrees," positions of power and influence in religion and government, and/or personal wealth. It also demonstrates the (usually) pitiful resistance offered by the few who dared oppose pompous authority.

For some time the American Atheist organization has taken the rightful position that "philosophy," per se, is "stuff and nonsense." It has represented, in its entirety, only a colossal waste of human time and energy because its only purpose was, AND IS, an attempt to lend credibility to absurdities. Some might argue that there were those "philosophers" who argued against *absurdities* and that therefore *philosophy* is a "valid educational device." To such individuals I can only comment: Go to the nearest funny farm and argue, or debate, with its idiot inmates. Perhaps you might even imagine that you may be able to "talk sense" to those poor unfortunate individuals. If so, I fear that you do not realize the content of madness. Absurdities should only be ignored by persons who understand that they cannot be refashioned into pertinent possibilities.

Those, like Auguste Comte, who entered into philosophical academia with the intention of bringing about *change* so as to improve the miserable conditions faced by the common people of his era, were, more or less, "fools" of their day and time. By and large, the Comtes of history never seemed to realize that misery and religious fantasy were the chief products of every major culture and society that had ever existed throughout history, and that the *very purpose* of authoritarian systems, dating back to the ancient witch-doctor priests, was to generate and regenerate ignorance in the still ape-like

minds of the "common" people — thereby perpetuating an adoration of authority. Comte never realized that the absorbent minds of children would have to have been isolated from mythology from the beginning — not intrigued and entertained with it during formative years — and that subsequently, as juveniles, those same children should not be subjected to the boring discourses offered by "adults" who believed in ghosts! Consequently, "society" incessantly pumps out its muckery at a pace that would easily overwhelm an army of "intellectually philosophical" Comtes. Meanwhile, science and the constructive arts lay starving for attention as *windbags* bellowed their philosophical orations.

Why then do we have the audacity to offer you this book concerned, of all things, with philosophy? Simply this. The very page that you are reading at this moment would be cited as "philosophical" or "opinionated" by those who would challenge it statements. By making available to you, in summarized form, the actual words and ideas of history's philosophical procrastinators, we are following the science format for learning — we are footnoting our position with proofs.

We could hardly suggest that you, individually, embark upon an extended journey into philosophical courses that would require years of voluminous reading. That would be the equivalent of asking YOU to waste half of YOUR lifetime, as did the millions of philosophy buffs before you. Yet, in order for you to have some idea of the reason for our attitude toward philosophy, you must have, at least, the pertinent evidences we offer.

This is the entire concept of Atheism — not to be decoyed into the pitfalls of trivia by deviously placed deceptive devices intended only to snare the unwary mind. But, instead, to "sniff out" the vile traps and ruses placed in our way by secretive religious nitwits who would infect our minds.

Once you have attained total Atheism through education you will see quite handily that all of history's bible pages are simply low-grade sheets of toilet tissue and that the only equitable use for the "chalice" is as an ornamental urinal. The only proper treatment for religion is to laugh in its lying face and to pity those too lazy to separate themselves from it. And, you will come to know, as is evidenced in this, our newly released publication, that philosophy is exactly what American Atheists claim — "stuff and nonsense"! / Gerald Tholen

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NEW UNCENSORED WRITINGS BY  
**MARK TWAIN**  
**Letters from the Earth**

EDITED BY BERNARD DeVOTO



For many years if one wanted an atheist book it was necessary to know how such books were hidden. For example, if one knew that Samuel Longhorn Clemens (1835-1910) was an Atheist, which he was; and one knew that his pen name was Mark Twain, which it was; and one knew that he was a humorist, which he was; one could go to any public library, look under the heading of humor, find Mark Twain's works and guess which one was a specifically anti-religious book.

Since he was a prolific author, one would be faced with a staggering number of titles. It is only if, by happenchance, one knew that his best anti-religious book was *Letters from The Earth* could one call for that particular book and read it.

Of course, Clemens, who had nothing to fear by saying openly that he was an Atheist, since he had wealth, power and position, declined to permit this fact to be known to other than a few close friends. In fact, in his will he stipulated that his atheist writings could not be published until one hundred years after his death in order to further protect his descendants, whom he knew had already turned to the Christian Science religion. A granddaughter into whose hands his manuscripts fell refused for over two decades to permit publication.

After her death, the unpublished works were held in successive depositories at Harvard, the Huntington Library, and the University of California, Berkeley. Five fragments were later published, "Glances at History" in 1938 in the *Saturday Review of Literature*; "The Great Dark" in 1942 in *Mark Twain at Work*; "The Gorky Incident" in 1944 in *Slavonic and East European Review*;

"Letter to The Earth" in 1946 in *Harper's Magazine*; "Cooper's Prose Style" in 1946 in *New England Journal*; and "A Cat-Tale" in 1959, in an edited collection on the subject of cats, titled *Concerning Cats*. With the exception of "A Cat-Tale" all of the works were edited for publication by Bernard DeVoto, a Christian who had worked (with the super-Christian Norman Cousins) as editor of *The Saturday Review of Literature* which magazine in its history consistently refused to advertise or review any atheist literature of any kind. Excuse the expression, but "gawd alone" knows what DeVoto did to the Twain work.

The book currently for sale here is a paperback edition brought out by Harper and Rowe under a copyright of Harvard College, another institution which has been terrified of Atheism.

This is the only paperback edition available, and it was printed in 1962. The two hundred and forty page book is on newspaper stock, turning slightly yellow, and contains the above five fragmented works. The only one you, as an Atheist, will really have any interest in is the one which is used as the book's title and which is presented in the first 96 pages. Sorry about that! The editor of the Mark Twain Papers apologizes for the work in his preface to the book and describes it as exhibiting "the astonishing play of Mark Twain's imagination about Biblical themes."

American Atheists heartily recommends the book. This, the only paperback book issue available, is "coverprice marked" at \$2.95 for the 1962 date; but the price has actually gone up as was discovered when American Atheists ordered a sizable lot of the books. We rather suspect that this particular writing of Twain's will disappear or be additionally watered down as time continues. Get it while you can.

**\$5.00 a copy,  
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