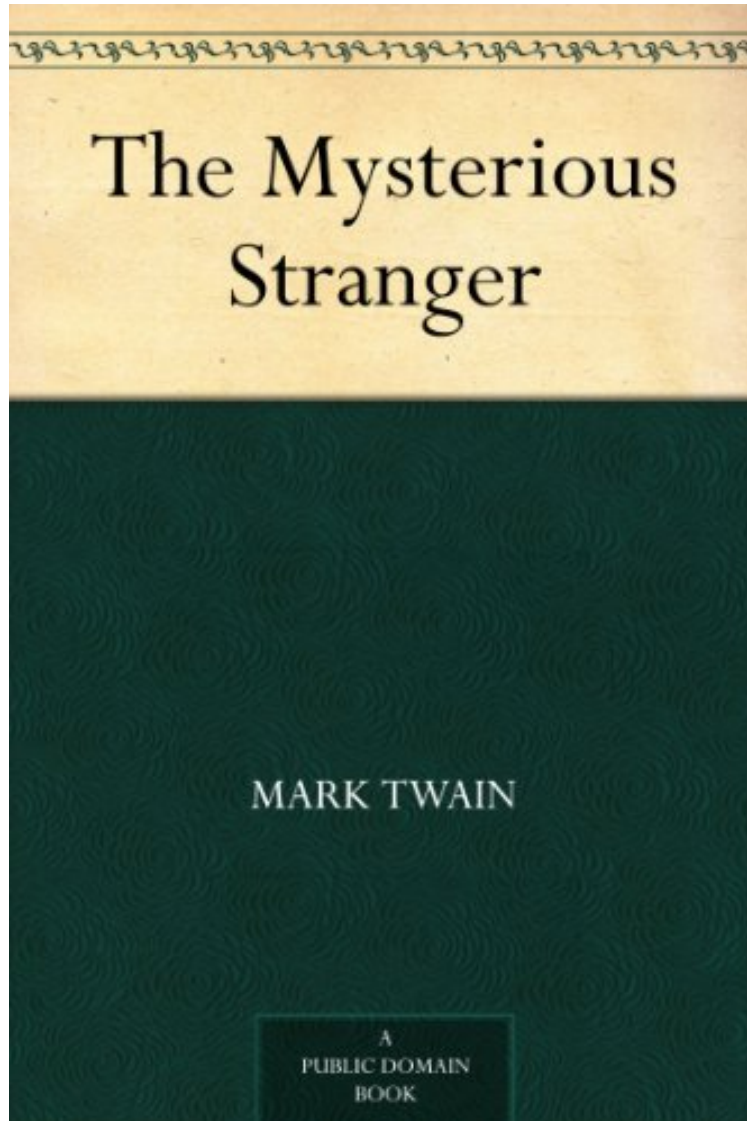


[Download] The Mysterious Stranger (English Edition)

The Mysterious Stranger (English Edition)

Von Mark Twain

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illusion about the nature of the human race. Towards the end of his life he was utterly embittered and in this work he paints a bleak picture of us and our moral sense. Looking at the world the way it is today his observations are as relevant now as they were 100 years ago. In the voice of Satans nephew, an angel who befriends three young boys in an isolated Austrian village in 1590, Mark Twain passes judgment on the human race which believes itself to be the crown of creation because it alone has a moral sense, the faculty to distinguish between good and evil. Humans tend to call any act of cruelty a brutality whereas a lowly brute is incapable of acting in such a way. Cruelty, inflicting pain for the pleasure of it, is entirely human. Man has the ability to choose between right and wrong and more often than not he chooses wrong, yet, there shouldn't be any wrong and without the moral sense there couldn't be any. Mark Twain is especially scathing on those in power : church and government. The church decides that knowledge is not good for the common people it might make them discontented with the lot which God had appointed for them . And, without the fear of hell and damnation where would the church be ? As for governments : they are ever a vocal minority good or bad - governing a herd of cowardly, mob-mentality slaves that will always against their better judgment or not - follow the ones that make the most noise. The history of humanity in general and of Christianity in particular is marked by cruelty, envy, malice, war and superstition. Civilization is just a long series of wars, murders and massacres, progress being a more and more deadly effectiveness of weapons. Though the one effective weapon humans possess is laughter they use it for trivialities instead of laughing about and thus destroying the hysterical insanity of a belief in the ego, life, after-life, God. All these things are impossible. Nothing exists, everything is a dream, an illusion and the I is just a thought, and a bad one at that. Could there be anything more absurd than the belief in an all-knowing, all-loving and all-powerful God who makes man what he is and then expects him to worship him for it ?

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