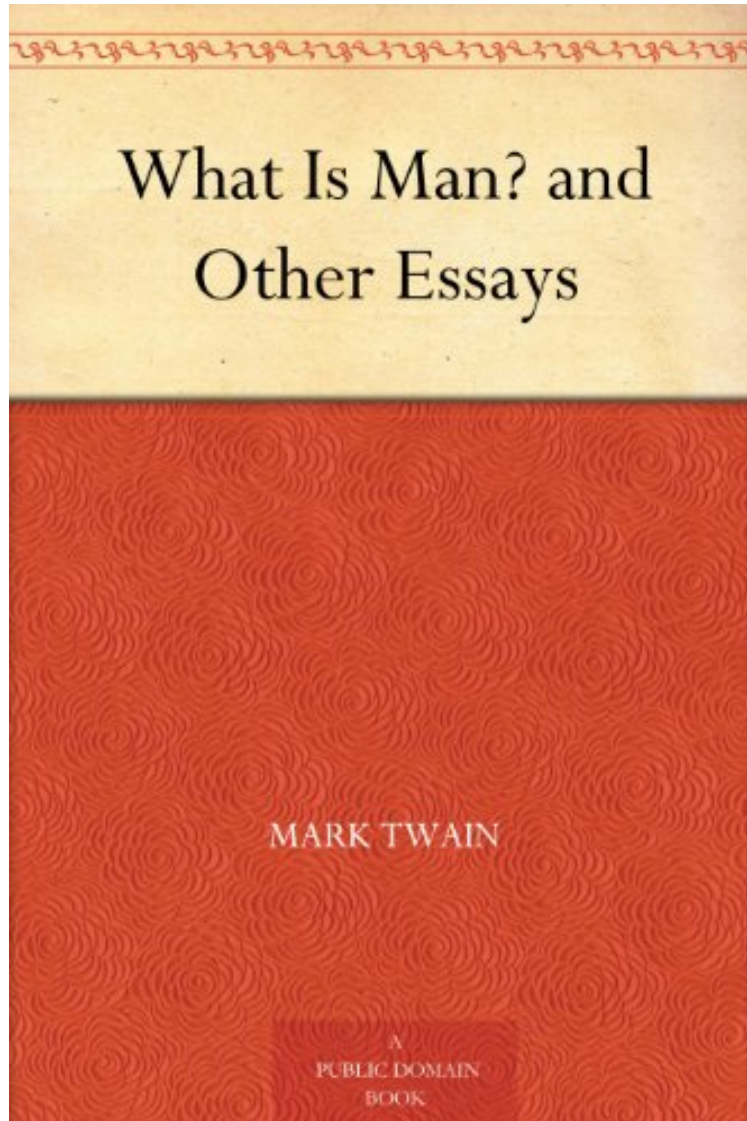


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What Is Man? and Other Essays (English Edition)

Von Mark Twain

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Von Mark Twain : What Is Man? and Other Essays (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What Is Man? and Other Essays (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Deconstructing man's claim to superiority Von Christiane All those who think of Mark Twain as only a humorist might be surprised at this collection of essays. Not only did he have a huge store of general knowledge, he also concerned himself with the larger questions of life. In the title essay What is Man the author knocks man off his self-constructed pedestal and puts him where he belongs : among the other animals (and not on the top rung of the ladder, either

!). Unfortunately, a hundred years after Mark Twain's death the majority of people against all evidence to the contrary still consider human beings the crown of creation because their Bible and/or their vanity and/or their ignorance tells them so. It might do them some good to study this essay in which the young man's untenable arguments in favor of man's superiority are dismantled one by one by the old man's reasoning. The fact that man knows right from wrong proves his INTELLECTUAL superiority to the other creatures; but the fact that he can DO wrong proves his MORAL inferiority to any creature that CANNOT.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Kluge berlegungen zur Freiheit des Menschen Von Benedictus Samuel Langhorne Clemens (30.11.1835 -21.4.1910) alias Mark Twain war Antirassist, Antiimperialist, Humorist, aber auch Deist und es ist höchst aufschlussreich zu sehen, welche berlegungen ein solcher Mann zu Gott und dem Wesen des Menschen angestellt hat. Die Aktualität seiner Gedanken zeigt ein Auszug des Dialoges zwischen einem alten (O.M.) und einem jungen Mann (Y.M.) aus dem Essay "WHAT IS MAN?": Y.M. You have made a machine of him. O.M. Who devised that cunning and beautiful mechanism, a man's hand? Y.M. God. O.M. Who devised the law by which it automatically hammers out of a piano an elaborate piece of music, without error, while the man is thinking about something else, or talking to a friend? Y.M. God. O.M. Who devised the blood? Who devised the wonderful machinery which automatically drives its renewing and refreshing streams through the body, day and night, without assistance or advice from the man? Who devised the man's mind, whose machinery works automatically, interests itself in what it pleases, regardless of its will or desire, labors all night when it likes, deaf to his appeals for mercy? God devised all these things. "I" have not made man a machine, God made him a machine. I am merely calling attention to the fact, nothing more. Is it wrong to call attention to the fact? Is it a crime? Y.M. I think it is wrong to expose a fact when harm can come of it. O.M. Go on. Y.M. Look at the matter as it stands now. Man has been taught that he is the supreme marvel of the Creation; he believes it; in all the ages he has never doubted it, whether he was a naked savage, or clothed in purple and fine linen, and civilized. This has made his heart buoyant, his life cheery. His pride in himself, his sincere admiration of himself, his joy in what he supposed were his own and unassisted achievements, and his exultation over the praise and applause which they evoked these have exalted him, enthused him, ambitioned him to higher and higher flights; in a word, made his life worth the living. But by your scheme, all this is abolished; he is degraded to a machine, he is a nobody, his noble prides wither to mere vanities; let him strive as he may, he can never be any better than his humblest and stupidest neighbor; he would never be cheerful again, his life would not be worth the living.

FAZIT Die heutige Debatte um die Freiheit des Menschen dreht sich immer noch um die gleichen Fragen. Es ist daher reizvoll und lehrreich zu schauen, welche Richtung Clemens' Gedanken im 19. Jahrhundert genommen haben.

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Synopsis Large format for easy reading. A collection of some of Twain's best essays. "What is Man?" is a dialogue between a young man and an older man jaded to the world. It involves ideas of destiny and free will. By the author of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.