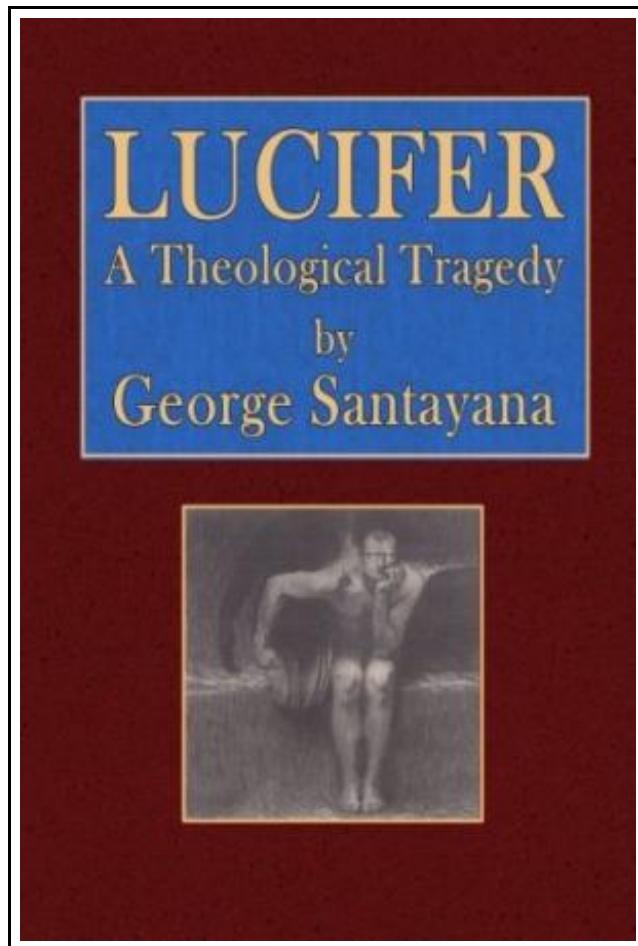


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Reviews

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LUCIFER: A THEOLOGICAL TRAGEDY (PAPERBACK)

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Createspace, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Lucifer: A Theological Tragedy, by George Santayana, 86, is as remarkable for the high level of its thought and its poetical expression as for the magnitude of its plan. In the Book of Job we have the presentation of one aspect of man's struggle with the mystery of evil; in Paradise Lost we have another; in Faust still another. Mr. Santayana's method is to embody the various attitudes of man towards life in the persons of Lucifer, Hermes, Mephistopheles, and Christ, and to show how they all, except the last, fail and die through their imperfections. An immense amount of thought has gone to the production of this poem. Mr. Santayana has examined for himself the various systems which he here personifies; he has checked off theory with experience, and he possesses the faculty of sympathizing with and understanding the opinions of the various characters he depicts. In Hermes, for example, he gives a beautiful interpretation of Greek mythology. And yet, if we appraise his work as a drama, we find that it falls short in two essentials: first, the *dramatis personae* hardly ever put off their abstract nature; secondly, the crises in the tragedy are too subtle, too purely metaphysical or theological, to make that impression which is the end of tragedy. The long disputation between Lucifer and Christ, to cite only one instance, is hardly less abstract than would be a dialogue between personifications of Heredity and Natural Selection, with Environment standing by to represent the Chorus. The defect seems to be incorrigible, because the dramatic form does not lend itself to the unfolding of such a theme as Mr. Santayana has chosen....

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