



## Three Philosophical Poets: Lucretius, Dante and Goethe

By Professor George Santayana

Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 155 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.The sole advantage in possessing great works of literature lies in what they can help us to become. In themselves, as feats performed by their authors, they would have forfeited none of their truth or greatness if they had perished before our day. We can neither take away nor add to their past value or inherent dignity. It is only they, in so far as they are appropriate food and not poison for us, that can add to the present value and dignity of our minds. Foreign classics have to be retranslated and reinterpreted for each generation, to render their old naturalness in a natural way, and keep their perennial humanity living and capable of assimilation. Even native classics have to be reapprehended by every reader. It is this continual digestion of the substance supplied by the past that alone renders the insights of the past still potent in the present and for the future. Living criticism, genuine appreciation, is the interest we draw from year to year on the unrecoverable capital of human genius....



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