



## The Life of Reason, Or, the Phases of Human Progress Volume 3 (Paperback)

By Professor George Santayana

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Excerpt: . CHAPTER VI THE CHRISTIAN EPIC Eevolutions are ambiguous things. Their success is generally proportionate to their power of The essence adaptation and to the reabsorption of the good within them of what they rebelled not adventitious but against. A thousand reforms have left expressive. the world as corrupt as ever, for each successful reform has founded a new institution, and this institution has bred its new and congenial abuses. What is capable of truly purifying the world is not the mere agitation of its elements, but their organisation into a natural body that shall exude what redounds and absorb or generate what is lacking to the perfect expression of its soul. Whence fetch this seminal force and creative ideal? It must evidently lie already in the matter it is to organise; otherwise it would have no affinity to that matter, no power over...

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