

# **EARTH WORM**



**THE MOST IMPORTANT  
ANIMAL IN THE WORLD**

**GEORGE OLIVER**

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*earthworm*

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**THE MOST IMPORTANT  
ANIMAL IN THE WORLD**

**GEORGE OLIVER**

**A DISTANT MIRROR**

EARTHWORM  
George S. Oliver

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**Business is Business**

“Business is Business,” the Little Man said,  
“A battle where everything goes,  
Where the only gospel is ‘get ahead,’  
And never spare friends or foes.  
‘Slay or be slain,’ is the slogan cold.  
You must struggle and slash and tear,  
For Business is Business, a fight for gold,  
Where all that you do is fair!”

“Business is Business,” the Big Man said,  
“A battle to make of earth  
A place to yield us more wine and bread,  
More pleasure and joy and mirth.  
There are still more bandits and buccaneers  
Who are jungle-bred beasts of trade,  
But their number dwindles with passing years  
And dead is the code they made!”

“Business is Business,” the Big Man said,  
But it’s something that’s more, far more;  
For it makes sweet gardens of deserts dead,  
And cities it built now roar  
Where once the deer and the gray wolf ran  
From the pioneer’s swift advance.  
Business is Magic that toils for man.  
Business is True Romance.

And those who make it a ruthless fight  
Have only themselves to blame  
If they feel no whit of the keen delight  
In playing the Bigger Game,  
The game that calls on the heart and head,  
The best of man’s strength and nerve.  
“Business is Business,” the Big Man said,  
And that Business is to serve!

—*Berton Braley*



## Part I

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# Introduction



*There must be something wrong somewhere  
— Nature's laws governing these errors — What  
is wrong when we have so many human ills?  
— When we have want in a land of plenty?  
— Why not old age pensions? — Why poultry  
dies young — The earthworm as an answer.*

## **There must be something wrong somewhere.**

There is want in a land of plenty—nationwide unemployment with factories idle and work to be done. The elderly must depend upon charity or insufficient social security. Fruit trees are chopped into firewood because they die many years before their natural span of life has been completed. Poultrymen and farmers find their livestock dying a premature death by wheelbarrow loads.

There certainly must be something wrong somewhere.

Why should modern man labor under these distressing and unnatural conditions? Are they the fault of a blind and disinterested nature? Or are they of man's own making?

It is the purpose of this book and the lessons it contains—for all books and teachings without purposes are empty things—to encourage the reader to find the something that is wrong and, where possible, alleviate it.

At this point, I wish it definitely understood that I am not coming forward with a new theory, or fad, or panacea for all our individual and collective ills and disorders. What appears in the following chapters was especially prepared for farmers, orchardists, nurserymen, poultrymen, gardeners, trout-farmers

and all persons interested in such matters. It is founded on scientifically established data, approved by eminent authorities, and designed by, and functioning through, natural law—the only law from which there is no recourse, no appeal, no hung juries.

Not only are Nature's laws foolproof, but they are as irrefutable and enduring as the laws of mathematics—and two and two will make four as long as numerals are used as media with which to count. And Nature's laws need no policemen, for they are guardians within themselves.

Probably the chief cause of most of humanity's mental and physical disturbances is too much food of the wrong sort, and too little of the beneficial sort. Properly balanced food means a well balanced and healthy body, and such a body contributes to the mental wellness of its owner, or, if you prefer, a spiritual wellness.

### **When there is want in a land of plenty.**

Here indeed is a paradox. If it were humanly possible to keep politicians from signing politically expedient documents and statutes; gag them to silence their similarly expedient utterances and purge their thoughts of forthcoming elections, a fair distribution of the nation's wealth could become a reality. Here, again, we may safely disregard man's laws and turn to natural laws, for an answer.

In Nature there is no waste. Everything—animal and plant, when its life is terminated—returns to its original elements, either in the soil or in the waters. Here, through chemical reactions, it is broken up and again becomes a beneficial part of these elements. Man's laws not only permit waste, but actually seem to thrive upon it.

This is particularly true in political, governmental and social spheres. Modern civilization, of which our American loose-leaf form of Democracy is a major part, seems incapable of producing unselfish statesmen. As examined by the thinkers and philosophers of the world today, general conditions point unmistakably to a

decrease of intellectual and moral fiber in those who are elected, or take by force, the responsibility of public affairs. America's financial, industrial and commercial systems need revamping by humanitarians, not politicians. The fact that these systems are all-powerful, as well as gigantic, should not give them a license to act as dictators.

In truth, America has less to fear from a political dictatorship than from a financial, industrial or commercial dictatorship. Certainly no reasonable or reasoning person will deny that our financial system, so cleverly interlocked with the international system, needs a thorough house cleaning. Were this done, and done according to the principles set forth in the Constitution of the United States, industry and commerce would be forced to change their tactics and operate in a less plutocratic, dictatorial and monopolistic manner.

And again we may safely turn to Nature. She does not permit monopoly. Nowhere in either the animal or plant kingdoms will one find monopolistic tendencies. Monopoly, political, industrial or economic, while it is undoubtedly beneficial to a few, is destructive to the masses. In the final analysis, monopoly is self-destructive, and any system that has within it the germ of self-destruction brings widespread disorder to other systems directly or indirectly related to it.

Essentially, monopoly is a form of greed and the similarity is decidedly expressed by calling the reader's attention to a pig pen at feeding time. Invariably, the fattest porker will push and shove and shoulder its way to the feed trough. In its greed, it comes very close to monopolizing all the available food. Thus it grows faster and fatter than the others in the same pen—and reaches the slaughterhouse first! Here we observe how greed and monopoly ultimately leads to destruction.

**When old age must depend upon charity  
or a social security that does not secure.**

Do natural laws ordain that the aged, animal or plant should suffer in their senile or infirm years? Definitely, no. Having lived naturally, all animals and plants complete their cycle of life in an even tenor, barring, of course, accidents, which are as much a part of Nature as the ebbing and flowing of the tides. Through progress, enlightenment and education—the latter being far less perfect than our paid scholastics would have us believe—we have graduated from many primitive customs which ordered that the elderly of some races, being senile, and therefore unproductive, should be destroyed.

Yet, the system we boastful Americans employ in caring for our elderly is relatively not far removed from the barbarous system of killing the old. Today we do not kill our elderly outright. We condescend to permit them to slowly starve or freeze to death, making them all the while more susceptible to the ills that come with old age.

Many Americans make the elderly a political football to be booted about the political gridiron. In considering the problem of our elderly, politicians obviously refuse to consider Nature. Probably, few of them realize that mutual aid is a natural law; that very early in the nineteenth century, philosophers dimly developed the theory that in every branch of Nature mutual aid is as permanently fixed as the laws of conception and demise.

It was Professor Kessler who, in 1880, while Dean of the St. Petersburg (now Leningrad) University, declared reciprocity to be a natural law. Prince Peter Alexevitch Kropotkin, Russian geographer, having absorbed Professor Kessler's declaration that mutual aid in Nature was irrefutable, wrote and published (1902) his great work *Mutual Aid as a Law of Nature and a Factor of Evolution*.

What both of these men know, or should know, is that the soil is deficient in one or more vitally necessary ways or elements. The orchardist who begins "guessing" about what is wrong with

his soil is playing an ultimately losing game. The law of averages is against him. Such a man, desiring to learn the true nature of his soil, the element or elements it lacks or with which it may be over supplied, should have samples of his soil analyzed by capable chemists. Most soils are deficient in elements necessary for plant life not because the elements are not present, but because they are unavailable to the plant roots.

It is into this picture that the burrowing earthworm makes its appearance. All the elements that are in the soil, but which are hidden and unavailable to the plant roots, are broken down by the earthworm and made available. Man has yet to invent, devise or manufacture any machine, any solid or liquid fertilizer as efficient as the earthworm. In this invertebrate animal, Nature has a perpetual soil builder, a four-in-one creature that acts upon the soil as chemist, triturator, cultivator and distributor—as shall be seen.

### **When poultrymen find their chickens dying a premature death by wheel barrow loads...**

For over a quarter of a century, Southern California has been a mecca for thousands of individuals and families trekking here to enter the poultry business. Scattered, estimated and authentic figures give us the information that, in a period of fifteen years, well over 50,000 such business ventures failed. Among those who have managed to remain in business are many who suffer a poultry mortality that is astounding. One set of figures shows that some sixty percent of pullets die before they reach maturity. Others show that fifty-five percent of laying hens have to be replaced every second year, when they should live and be productive for from four to six years. Still other data point out that it costs many poultrymen twenty cents a dozen to produce eggs, when thinking members of their business are producing the finest eggs for less than ten cents a dozen. Poultry raisers and breeders of fowls for meat seemingly have great difficulty in producing birds with a necessary amount of feathers on them.

Why do such conditions exist in the poultry business? When we come to the portion of this work that deals with poultry, we shall learn that the cause of all these conditions is in the poultryman himself. It is not the nature of domesticated fowls, nor is it Nature's design, to suffer such a high mortality rate, produce sterile eggs, or half bald chickens. For over forty years, this writer has known and demonstrated the fact that, if there is little or no deficiency in the diet poultrymen feed their flocks, there will be a minimum of premature deaths, unfertile eggs, and featherless birds. It is no idle remark, no promise of magical prowess, no guesswork to declare that all of these adverse conditions may easily be remedied by the proper application of the earthworm, as we shall eventually see in a chapter devoted to this subject.

The statement taken for our premise—"there must be something wrong somewhere"—may be accurately changed to "there *is* something wrong somewhere."

It is the aim of this book to point out what and where that wrong is and how it can be overcome. Around and upon one word—earthworm—is built the highway to better and more productive trees, plants, vegetables, poultry, game birds and fish.

Such an animal as the earthworm, whose importance is universally accepted and admitted by scientists, deserves a more pretentious volume than this humble effort of mine. But I find solace and satisfaction in having prepared a book for the lay reader in which I have eliminated, as much as possible, the use of confusing technical and long, jaw-breaking zoological terms.

In preparing this work, I have included data about the earthworm that has long been recognized and admitted by men and women of science. In addition, I have included many facts which I have discovered through nearly half a century of experimentation.

This work was planned to be of especial interest to farmers, orchardists, nurserymen, gardeners, poultrymen and all others interested in agriculture, horticulture and their kindred professions. However, it will, I hope, be welcomed as an instructive

review of the life and habits of the annelids discussed herein.

In offering this work to the public, I sincerely hope that it will add, to an already long list, many new and appreciative admirers of our friend, the earthworm.

—*George Sheffield Oliver*

# History of the Earthworm



*The animal kingdom — Earthworm low in animal life — Description of various types of worms — Charles Darwin's opinion — What is "Dry land?" — External description of the earthworm — Internal description — Its sexual life — The eggs of earthworms — Their progeny*

The animal kingdom is divided into two subkingdoms, invertebrate and vertebrate animals—animals with backbones and animals without backbones. The invertebrate group is distinguished by nine phyla, or divisions. In this group there are over 500,000 known kinds of animals, ranging from the lowest form of animal life, minute single-celled protozoa, to arthropoda—crabs, insects and spiders. In the vertebrate group there are well over 30,000 known kinds—fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.

When it is stated that in this vast array of creatures the lowly, segmented earthworm is probably the most important to mankind, most may find that illogical and unreasonable. Yet, few creatures equal the burrowing earthworm as being essential to better health and greater growth to plant and vegetable life. Therefore, indirectly, it is of the utmost importance to man.

The burrowing earthworm is Nature's plow, chemist, cultivator, fertilizer, distributor of plant food. In every way, the earthworm

surpasses anything man has yet invented to plow, cultivate or fertilize the soil.

While it is unquestionably true that plants and vegetables grow and reproduce their kind without the aid of the earthworm, most naturalists claim that all fertile areas have, at one time or another, passed through the bodies of earthworms.

It is also true that the finest plants and vegetables become healthier and more productive through the activities of this lowly animal, which the ordinary person considers useful only as bird food or fish bait.

The earthworm has been playing a very important role in the drama of plant life from time so distant that scientists can merely guess as to the age of this invertebrate animal. Regardless, scientific men are agreed that mankind may rightly acknowledge the earthworm as one of his best friends.

In this chapter, or lesson, the reader will be presented with a brief genealogical background of the earthworm and the manner in which it has indirectly aided mankind by directly aiding plant life. This background should help the reader to understand facts regarding the earthworm which should be known to anyone interested in gardening, farming, orcharding or poultry raising.

If must first be realized that there are worms and “worms.” All are invertebrate animals. This work shall be focused on only the *phylum annelida*.

The division of invertebrate animals, of which the earthworm is a member, is composed of five families or classes. These, in turn, are divided into two orders. The *phylum annelida*, the entire division of earthworms, contains upward of eleven hundred species.

Of this extensive array, we shall concern ourselves only with earthworms, for there are marine worms, swamp worms and beach worms, many of which appear to be “just worms.”

While all *annelida* are, more or less, closely related, each specie has distinct features. Some have habits quite foreign to other species. Some prosper only in certain, specific environments and

die if transplanted elsewhere. Some have definitely formed heads, with whiskers, teeth and eyes. Others have no heads, are toothless and eyeless. Some worms are hermaphroditical, others bisexual. Some live exclusively in water, others in soggy soil, others in decayed animal matter (manure), others in decayed vegetable matter (humus).

Low as earthworms are in the scale of life, they show unmistakable signs of intelligence. Charles Darwin's experimentations with them conclusively proved that instinct alone could not guide them so consistently. (See Darwin's famous work, *The Formation of Vegetable Mould Through the Actions of Worms, with Observations on Their Habits.*)

Some earthworms come to the surface of the soil and can crawl a great distance, especially in rainy weather, when their burrows or tunnels are flooded. All throw their bodily excrements, technically known as castings, behind them. Some species throw their castings above the surface of the soil, forming small hillocks or mounds.

Countless thousands of years before the rocky surface of the earth disintegrated to form what we call soil, an extensive list of animals and plants lived in the waters. Marine worms were undoubtedly present in those obscure ages.

In time, as the waters receded, various animals and plants evolved certain anatomical organs to meet the new conditions. Some marine worms acquired physical characteristics which permitted them to live, first in very marshy ground, later in "dry land."

The phrase, "dry land," should here be qualified, for, in the strictest sense, there are exceptionally few spots on the face of the earth that are dry. No creature can live on, or in, dry land. It is a common remark, "we breathe air," but what we are actually doing—what all living things are doing—is breathing nitrogen dissolved in water.

We should keep this fact regarding the vital need of water constantly before us as we study the worm and its relation to plant

life, for both must have moisture to live.

Now that we have cursorily traced the earthworm from its parent environment to the so-called dry land, we will focus on those known to science as *Oligochaeta*.

This group is composed chiefly of terrestrial worms, and is the subject of this book.

The earthworms, like all other families, is sub-divided into various groups, but for our purpose all we need know are the common names for this class. These are orchard worm, rain worm, angle worm, dew worm, brandling, compost worm, night crawler, fish worm, night lions and similarly descriptive names familiar to certain areas of the United States.

Let us now combine all these common names and visualize the last earthworm we saw.

In size, it may have been from two inches to perhaps a foot in length. Although, twelve inches is long for an earthworm on the North American Continent, except in very damp forest lands.

In considering an external description of the earthworm, we find all species so much alike that few can distinguish one species from another without careful examination.

All are “headless,” eyeless and toothless. There are no external antennae or feelers. From tip to tail the body is composed of ringlike segments. A short distance from the “head” is seen a band, which is lighter in color than the rest of the body.

That, briefly, describes how the earthworm appears to the naked eye. The earthworm’s internal system is highly complicated. Yet, paradoxically enough, it is magnificently simple. Picture a flexible metal tube the size of a lead pencil, in which is built a plant capable of refining gasoline from crude oil. In a comparative sense, the earthworm’s system does to soil what the modern refinery does to crude oil.

The earthworm has a multiple system of hearts, minute tubes circling that part of the alimentary canal between the pharynx and the crop. Through a complicated system, these hearts supply blood to all parts of the body.

Minus lungs, the earthworm “breathes” through its moist epidermis or outer skin. The blood corpuscles are colorless and float to the surface of each segment where they absorb oxygen.

Under an ordinary magnifying glass, the pores of the various segments are visible. If one were to gently squeeze an earthworm, minute drops of yellowish serum would be seen coming out from it.

This serum is composed chiefly of oil of high medicinal value. Experiments for its extraction, discussed in a later chapter, are now in progress. It is hoped that this oil may be extracted in quantities sufficient to encourage production.

Except for a number of hearts, all the vital organs of the earthworm are under the previously mentioned band, which zoologists call the *clitellum*. This band is the chief characteristic of the earthworm, distinguishing it from all other worms except a few leeches and a few other marine worms.

Under this band, in compact uniformity, are seminal vesicles and receptacles, testes, ovaries, oviduct and egg sac. Directly behind these is the crop, where the food is held until the gizzard, just beyond the crop, is ready to accept it. Next follows the intestine, a distinctly oval shaped tube, and then the rest of the alimentary canal to the vent or anus.

Our earthworm is bisexual, containing both male and female organs of procreation, and must perform a reciprocal act of copulation to fertilize and be fertilized.

The sexual act of the earthworm, usually occurring in the cool hours of the early dawn and twilight, makes an interesting and curious study of nature’s method for propagating the specie.

Neither animal has external sexual organs, though the pores, through which the seminal fluids appear, are visible under a small magnifying glass. The sexual act is not preceded by any display of amorous cooing or lovemaking. The worms, driven solely by instinct when the procreative glands demand relief, seek a position that brings their bands together and remain thus, quite motionless, for as long as fifteen minutes. If exposed to a bright

light during the sexual act, the embrace is broken. Worms, though sightless, are very susceptible to light.

During the act of coitus, each worm exchanges male sperm, impregnating, or, at least, theoretically impregnating, their female ovas. Also during the act, there is an increased flow of the fluid which keeps the entire length of the worm's body moist. This fluid forms the capsule in which the eggs are deposited. It is heavier and thickens rapidly.

When the hymeneal act is completed and the earthworms separate, this fluid forms an outer band. The new band or shield begins to move forward, eventually dropping from the earthworm's "head."

During the forward movement of the gelatine-like band, the impregnated eggs are held firmly within. As it drops off the earthworm, it closes into a yellowish-green pellet or capsule, slightly larger than a grain of rice. This capsule resembles, to a remarkable degree, a very small currant.

Earthworm capsules examined under a powerful microscope show a lack of uniformity in the number of cells. There will be, however, from three to fifteen fertile eggs in a capsule.

Earthworm eggs hatch in about twenty-one days. The newborn appear as short bits of whitish thread about one-quarter of an inch in length. In twelve to forty-eight hours, they become darker but are visible to the untrained eye only after a painstaking search for them.

Once hatched, it is a case of each worm for itself. Close observation seems to lead students of these lowly organized creatures to believe their mortality rate exceptionally low.

Worms begin to mate from sixty to one hundred days after birth, depending upon the richness or poorness of the soil in which they live or in which they are cultured.

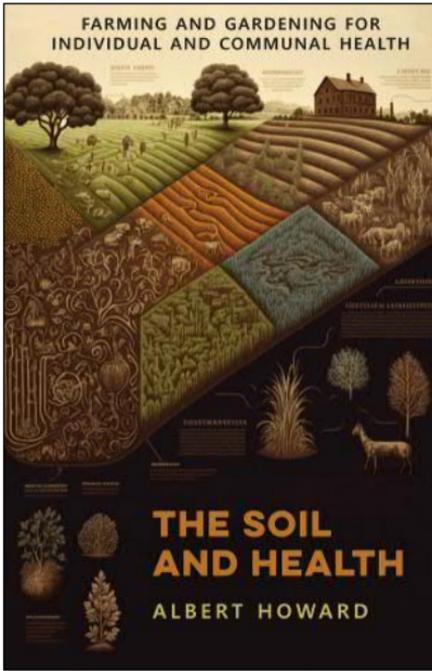
Mating follows at periods from six to eight days. If we are to follow the average fertility of each capsule laid, that is, three worms, one mature worm will beget over one hundred and fifty worms each year of its life. Each mating, should produce twice

that number, or over three hundred worms a year.

Certain species of earthworms, particularly those that come to the surface and crawl about during wet or rainy weather, seem to be chiefly active during the nocturnal hours. Other species—which we will discuss later—are, apparently, active throughout most of the day and night. This specie seldom, if ever, comes to the surface, depending on the porosity of the soil.

Except in highly porous soils, the earthworm must eat its way through. Having no teeth, everything before it, if not too large to swallow, is sucked into the mouth. It is a ravenous eater.

Every morsel of soil and decayed vegetable and animal matter taken in by the earthworm passes through its digestive system. This is equipped with a gizzard-like organ. Here the food value in the swallowed matter is extracted for use by the worm. The rest is carried by muscular action down through, and out of, the alimentary canal. This waste matter is called castings.



## The Soil and Health

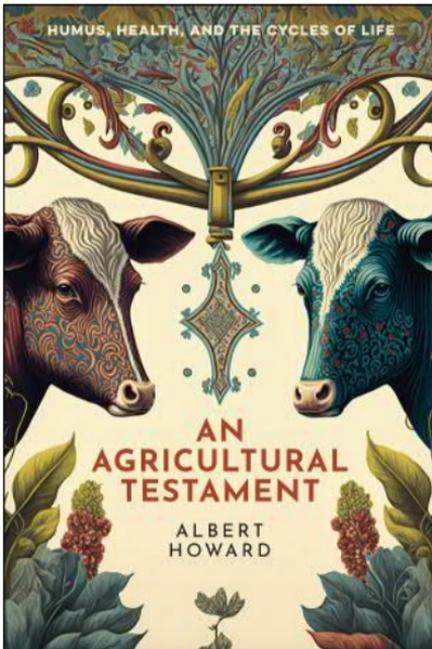
Albert Howard

This valuable book is a detailed analysis of the vital role of humus and compost in soil health – and the importance of soil health to the health of crops and the humans who eat them. The author is keenly aware of the dead end which awaits humanity if we insist on growing our food using artificial fertilisers and poisons.

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## An Agricultural Testament

Albert Howard

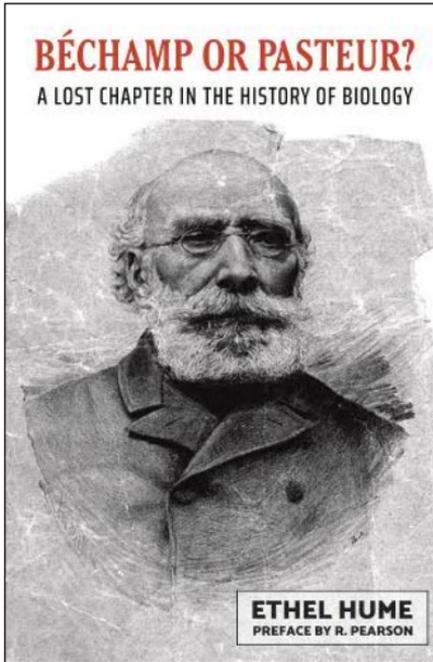
A new edition of Howard's classic work from the early days of the organics movement in Britain.

Howard's discoveries and methods, and their implications, are given in detail. They are of enormous usefulness to gardeners and farmers, and to anyone who may be interested in the history and the problems of land use.

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## Béchamp or Pasteur?

Ethel Hume / Robert Pearson

Pearson's *Pasteur: Plagiarist, Imposter* was originally published in 1942 and is a succinct introduction to both Louis Pasteur and Antoine Bechamp, and the background to the troubled relationship that they shared for their entire working lives. Ethel Hume documents the evidence in detail, so that there is no escaping the obvious conclusion – Pasteur was a fraud.

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## The Blood and its Third Element

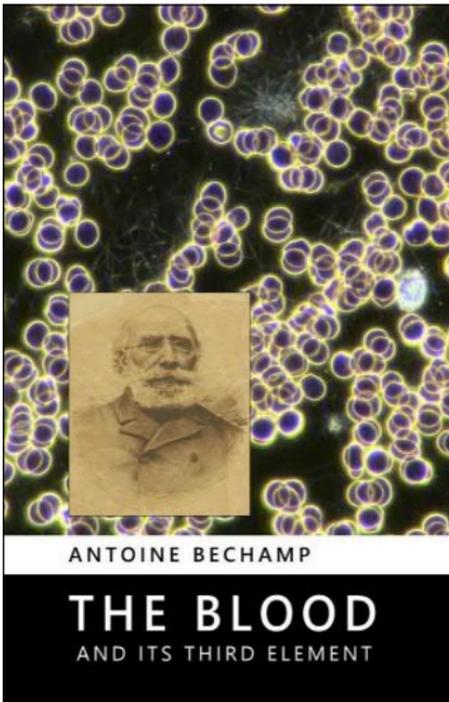
Antoine Béchamp

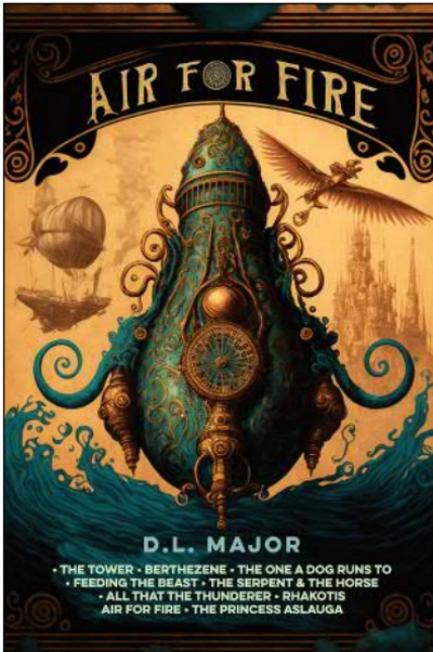
There is no single cause of disease. The ancients knew this. Béchamp proved it with meticulous research, and was written out of history for his trouble. The relevance of his work to the dilemmas that plague the modern medical world remains to this day unrealized by mainstream science and medicine.

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## Air for Fire

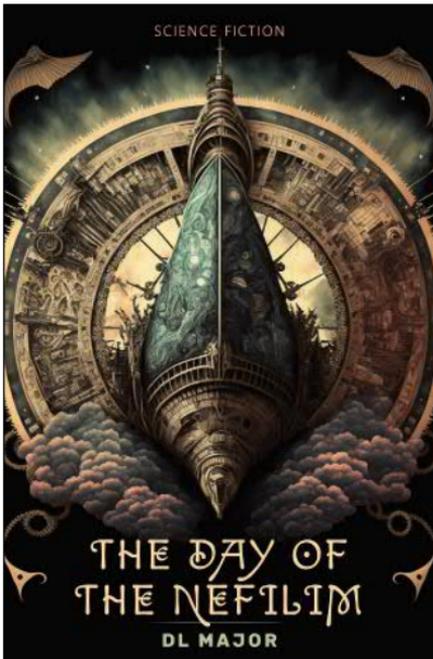
D.L. Major

A collection of short stories and poetry by the author of *The Day of the Neflim*. While *The Neflim* was a meandering trip through some of the world's great conspiracy theories, *Air for Fire* is a collection of short tales that happen in every timeline but this one. Shameless historical revisionism.

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## The Day of the Neflim

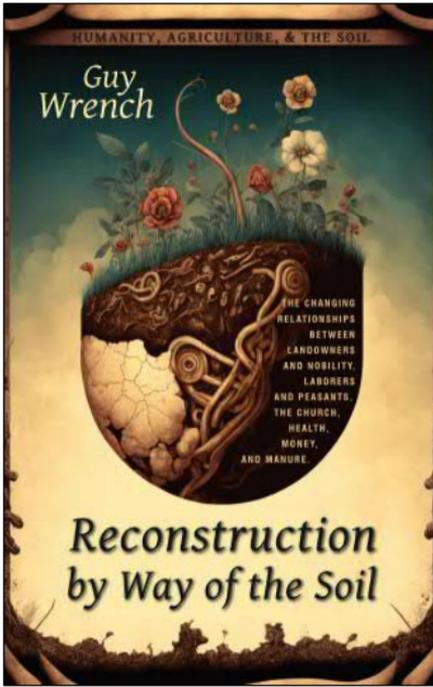
D.L. Major

“...one of the best SF novels I have read since I began reading. I read it straight through, in one sitting. Yeah, that’s right, I did not put the book down until I finished reading it. Couldn’t. Well done, David. Keep writing. Can’t wait to read your next book... you would make Robert Anton Wilson proud, and Douglas Adams smile.” – *reader review*

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## Reconstruction by Way of the Soil

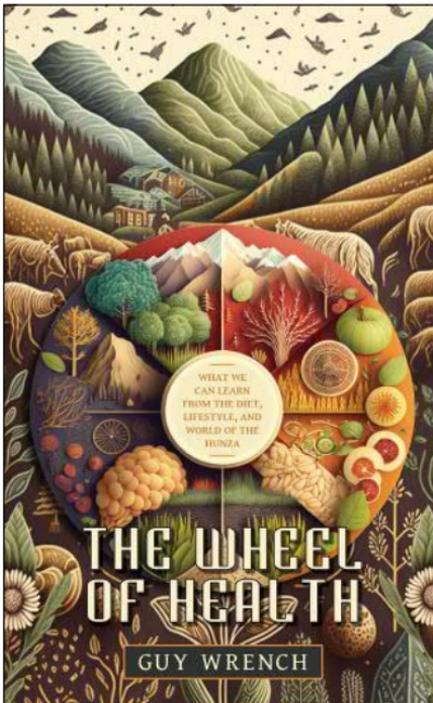
Dr Guy Wrench

Includes case studies from Ancient Rome, nomadic societies, medieval England, Africa and Egypt, the West Indies, Russia, Australia and the USA to show that nothing is more important than the relationship between civilization and the soil. The way that the soil is treated has brought about both the rise and fall of civilizations.

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## The Wheel of Health

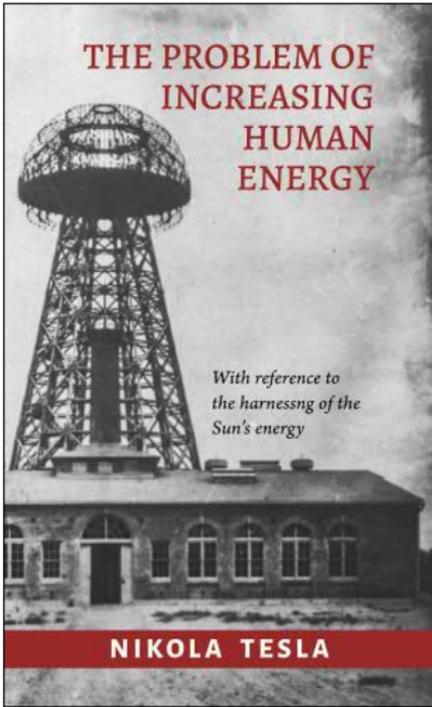
Dr Guy Wrench

The Hunza of northern Pakistan were famous for their extraordinary vitality and health. Dr Wrench argues that in part at least, this is because their food was not made 'sophisticated', by the artificial processes typically applied to modern processed food. How these processes affect our food is dealt with in great detail in this book. What Dr Wrench uncovered in his researches goes deeper than just food, though. It's about water.

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## The Problem of Increasing Human Energy

Nikola Tesla

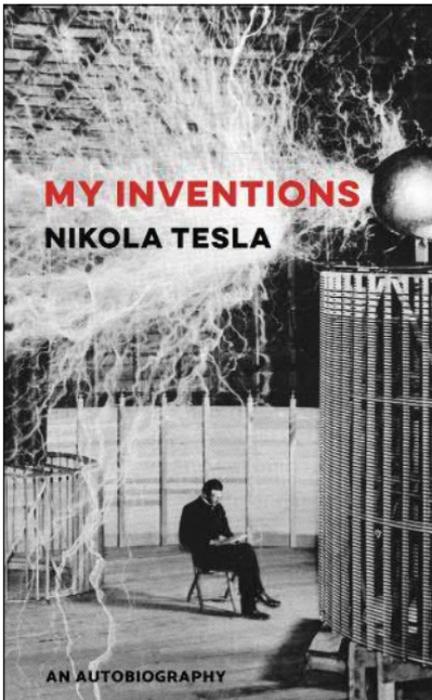
Contains Tesla's thoughts on humanity's relationship with the universe, and also his explanation of the technological wonders embodied in his work.

This text was first published in *Century Illustrated Magazine* in June 1900.

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## My Inventions

Nikola Tesla

Not only is this book an invitation to meet one of the greatest minds of the last century, and to hear him talk about his inventions; it is also a chance to get to know Tesla as a person, as the book is filled with anecdotes of his early life.

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EUGÈNE MARAIS

THE SOUL  
OF THE APE  
&  
MY FRIENDS  
THE BABOONS



## The Soul of the Ape

Eugène Marais

Includes two works by Marais written after his period spent living among a troop of baboons in the South African veldt. *My Friends* was written for a newspaper readership. *The Soul of the Ape* was the more serious scientific document. The excellent introduction by Robert Ardrey was part of the 1969 edition, and adds greatly to an appreciation of the importance of this text.

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## The Soul of the White Ant

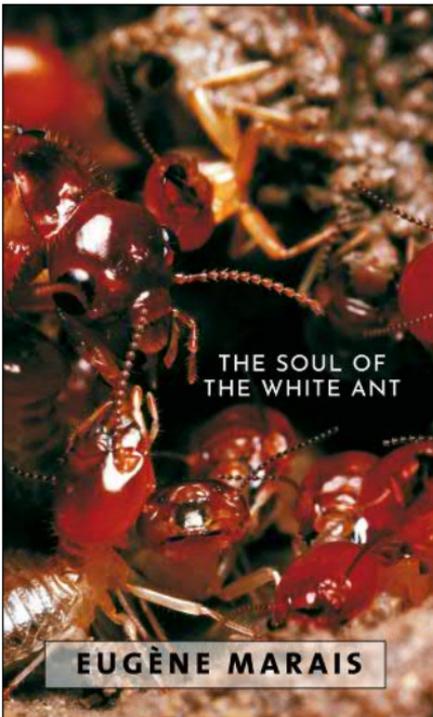
Eugène Marais

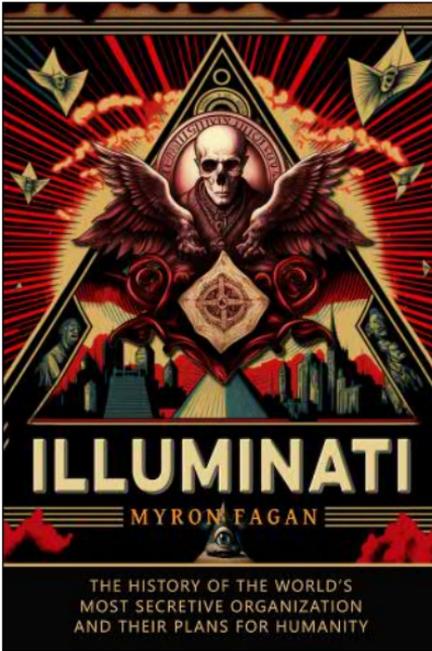
The amazing results of a long, close study of the lives of termites. Eugène Marais compares the infrastructure of a termite colony to that of the human body. Writing from the heart, this scientific author who is also a poet instills a wonder in the reader, of the incredible intricacies of nature, in a light-hearted, easily readable manner.

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# ILLUMINATI

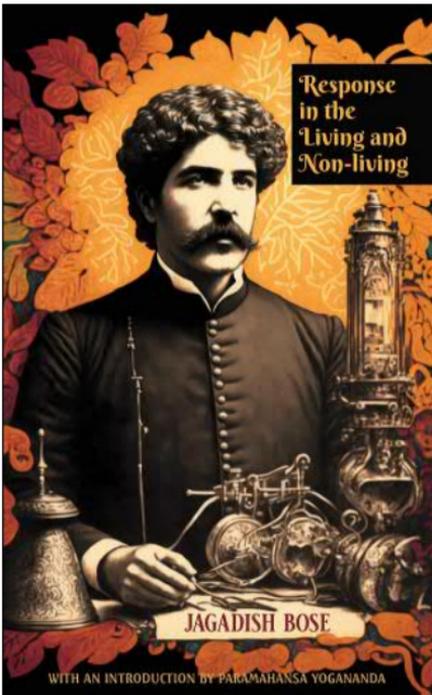
Myron Fagan

This book describes how the Illuminati became the instrument of the Rothschilds to achieve a One World Government, and how every war during the past two centuries has been instigated by this group. This is an historical text with names, dates, organizations and mode of operations, all exposing the octopus gripping the world today.

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# Response in the Living and Non-living

Jagadish Bose

This is one of the great Indian scientist's earlier works. His experiments showed that in the entire range of responses – regardless of whether the subject is metallic, plant or animal – the responses are identical. The living response, in all its diverse modifications, is a repetition of the responses seen in the inorganic. *Everything is alive.*

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## Ten Acres is Enough

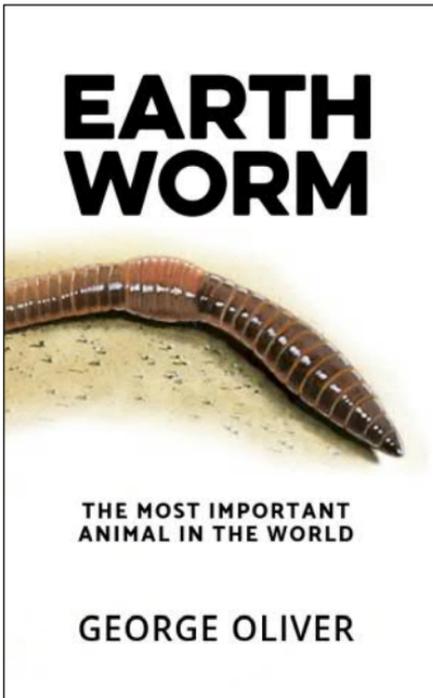
Edmund Morris

Recently we have seen a great back-to-the-land movement, with many young professional people returning to small scale farming; thus it is useful to read about someone who did exactly the same thing in 1864. In that year, Edmund Morris and his family gave up their business and city life for a farm of ten acres, where they made a go of mixed farming, and then wrote a book about it.

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## Earthworm

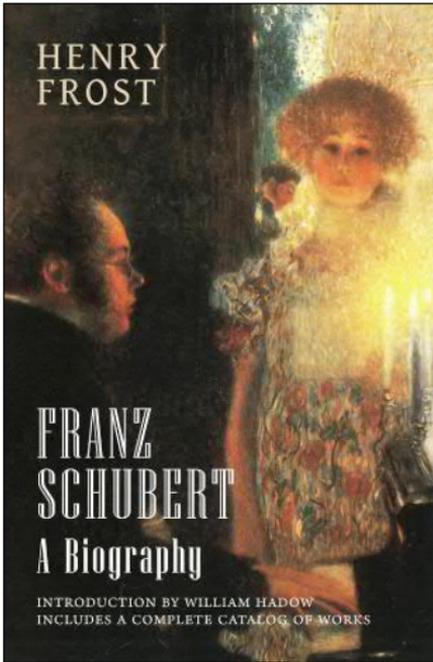
George Oliver

The author returns the reader to a time and methodology where people took responsibility for what they did and what they produced. In this world of spiraling food prices, huge landfills, diminishing food supplies, loss of topsoil, and water pollution, the reader is reminded that the world's most important animal could well be the humble earthworm.

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## Franz Schubert – a Biography

Henry Frost

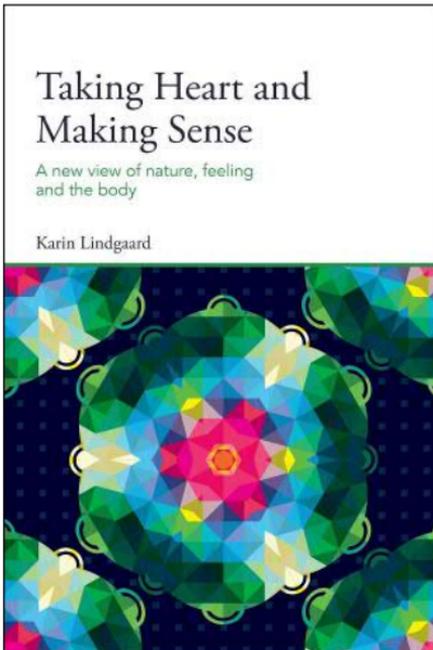
“With faith man steps forth into the world. Faith is far ahead of understanding and knowledge; for to understand anything, I must first of all believe something. Faith is the higher basis on which weak understanding rears its first columns of proof; reason is nothing but faith analysed.”

– *Franz Schubert*

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## Taking Heart and Making Sense

Karin Lindgaard

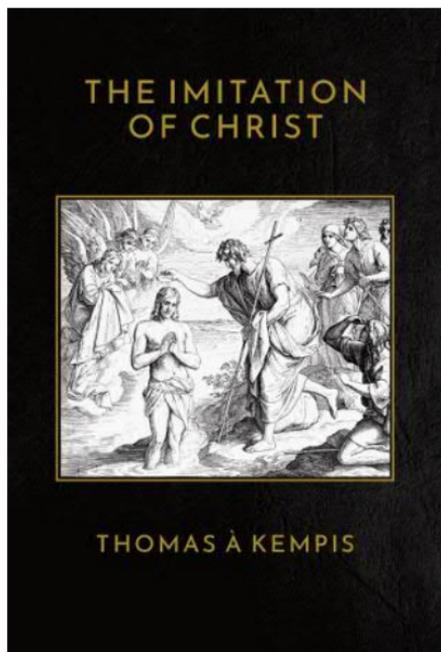
What do animals feel? How do living systems become conscious?

The author takes on these and many more questions about the natural world and human experience, helping us to understand our feelings and emotions, and our sense of meaning in life. Lindgaard takes readers on a conceptual adventure across psychology, philosophy and cognitive science.

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## The Imitation of Christ

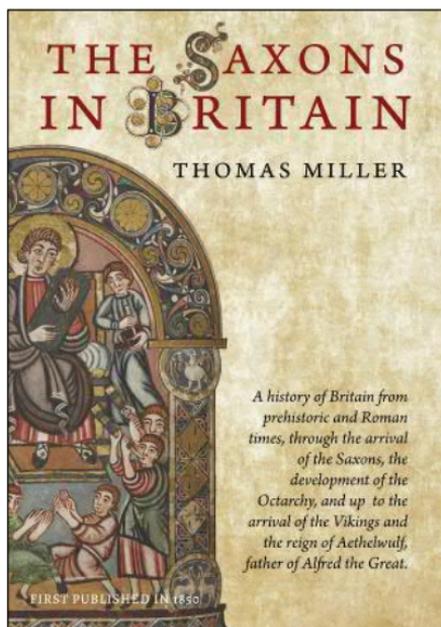
Thomas à Kempis

A new edition, extensively illustrated with prints by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld and featuring many bible passages from the RSVCE Bible. This text has long been a treasure trove for Catholics around the world. With its beautiful illustrations and carefully selected Bible passages, this new edition brings timeless wisdom to life like never before.

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## The Saxons in Britain

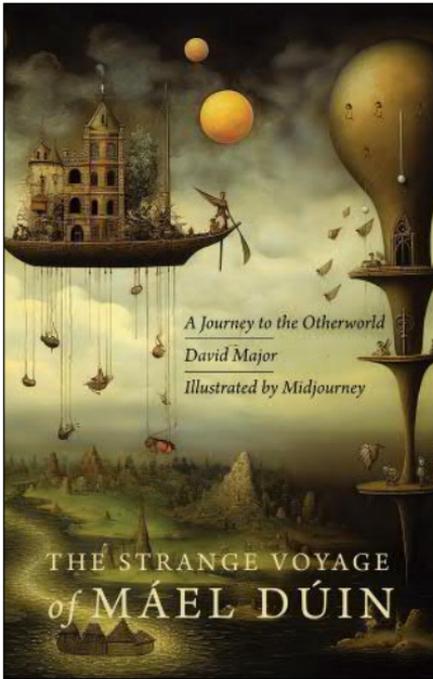
Thomas Miller

An illustrated history of Britain from prehistoric and Roman times, through the arrival of the Saxons, the development of the Octarchy, and up to the arrival of the Vikings and the reign of Aethelwulf, father of Alfred the Great.

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# The Strange Voyage of Máel Dúin

David Major & Midjourney

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