



The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History of an Idea

By Arthur O. Lovejoy

Download now

Read Online 

The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History of an Idea By Arthur O. Lovejoy

From later antiquity down to the close of the eighteenth century, most philosophers and men of science and, indeed, most educated men, accepted without question a traditional view of the plan and structure of the world. In this volume, which embodies the William James lectures for 1933, Arthur O. Lovejoy points out the three principles?plenitude, continuity, and graduation?which were combined in this conception; analyzes their origins in the philosophies of Plato, Aristotle, and the Neoplatonists; traces the most important of their diverse samifications in subsequent religious thought, in metaphysics, in ethics and aesthetics, and in astronomical and biological theories; and copiously illustrates the influence of the conception as a whole, and of the ideas out of which it was compounded, upon the imagination and feelings as expressed in literature.

 [Download The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History o ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History ...pdf](#)

The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History of an Idea

By Arthur O. Lovejoy

The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History of an Idea By Arthur O. Lovejoy

From later antiquity down to the close of the eighteenth century, most philosophers and men of science and, indeed, most educated men, accepted without question a traditional view of the plan and structure of the world.

In this volume, which embodies the William James lectures for 1933, Arthur O. Lovejoy points out the three principles—plenitude, continuity, and graduation—which were combined in this conception; analyzes their origins in the philosophies of Plato, Aristotle, and the Neoplatonists; traces the most important of their diverse ramifications in subsequent religious thought, in metaphysics, in ethics and aesthetics, and in astronomical and biological theories; and copiously illustrates the influence of the conception as a whole, and of the ideas out of which it was compounded, upon the imagination and feelings as expressed in literature.

The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History of an Idea By Arthur O. Lovejoy Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #401813 in Books
- Published on: 1976-01-31
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .99" w x 5.50" l, .98 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 382 pages

 [Download The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History o ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online *The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History of an Idea* By Arthur O. Lovejoy

Editorial Review

Review

The Great Chain of Being, employed as a title, would have suggested...what was 'probably the most widely familiar conception of the general scheme of things'?the idea of a world in which every being was related to every other in a continuously graded scale, with no possible form of diversity missing. Pursuing the biography of this idea through more than two thousand years, the distinguished author of these lectures makes clear its amazing influence on the thought and history of the Western World... Intellectual vigor, critical precision and an amazing knowledge of what mankind has thought and desired in other ages distinguishes this book. No student of the history of literature, science, or philosophy may well neglect it. (Clifford Barrett *New York Times Book Review*)

One of the great books of our generation. (Marjorie Nicolson *American Scholar*)

A fascinating and moving book... Everyone interested in the larger ironies of human history should read [it]. (Ernest Nagel *New Republic*)

Men are galvanized by ideas and act as vehicles for them... Such a ruling idea is that of *the great chain of being*. Prof. Lovejoy's study records the birth, the growth, the vicissitudes, transformations, and finally the senility, and perhaps the death of this idea. The study is as fascinating as that of the rise and decay of an empire, and, in fact, it is the study of the empire of an idea over human minds throughout many centuries... Prof. Lovejoy's approach is fresh and different... The learning exhibited in this book is vast. (Raphael Demos *Modern Language Notes*)

From the Back Cover

'Men are galvanized by ideas and act as vehicles for them ...Such a ruling idea is that of the great chain of being. Prof. Lovejoy's study records the birth, the growth, the vicissitudes, transformations, and finally the senility, and perhaps the death of this idea. The study is as fascinating as that of the rise and decay of an empire, and, in fact, it is the study of the empire of an idea over human minds throughout many centuries...Prof. Lovejoy's approach is fresh and different.' *Modern Language Notes*

About the Author

Arthur O. Lovejoy taught philosophy for nearly forty years at Johns Hopkins University. He is the author of numerous works, including *Essays in the History of Ideas* and *Revolt against Dualism*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Betty Castaneda:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open as well as read a book eligible *The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History of an Idea*? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have different opinion?

Jose Wilson:

What do you with regards to book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material when you require something to explain what yours problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy particular person? If you don't have spare time to accomplish others business, it is make you feel bored faster. And you have free time? What did you do? Every individual has many questions above. The doctor has to answer that question mainly because just their can do that. It said that about e-book. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on pre-school until university need this particular The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History of an Idea to read.

Melissa Sanders:

Reading a publication can be one of a lot of action that everyone in the world adores. Do you like reading book thus. There are a lot of reasons why people enjoyed. First reading a e-book will give you a lot of new details. When you read a guide you will get new information simply because book is one of several ways to share the information or their idea. Second, looking at a book will make a person more imaginative. When you reading a book especially fiction book the author will bring one to imagine the story how the figures do it anything. Third, you could share your knowledge to some others. When you read this The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History of an Idea, you are able to tells your family, friends as well as soon about yours e-book. Your knowledge can inspire the mediocre, make them reading a publication.

Kyle Smallwood:

Reading a book make you to get more knowledge from it. You can take knowledge and information from a book. Book is published or printed or descriptive from each source this filled update of news. In this particular modern era like today, many ways to get information are available for you. From media social like newspaper, magazines, science book, encyclopedia, reference book, fresh and comic. You can add your understanding by that book. Isn't it time to spend your spare time to open your book? Or just looking for the The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History of an Idea when you essential it?

Download and Read Online The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History of an Idea By Arthur O. Lovejoy #U2Q5AHF76RT

Read The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History of an Idea By Arthur O. Lovejoy for online ebook

The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History of an Idea By Arthur O. Lovejoy Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History of an Idea By Arthur O. Lovejoy books to read online.

Online The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History of an Idea By Arthur O. Lovejoy ebook PDF download

The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History of an Idea By Arthur O. Lovejoy Doc

The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History of an Idea By Arthur O. Lovejoy Mobipocket

The Great Chain of Being: A Study of the History of an Idea By Arthur O. Lovejoy EPub