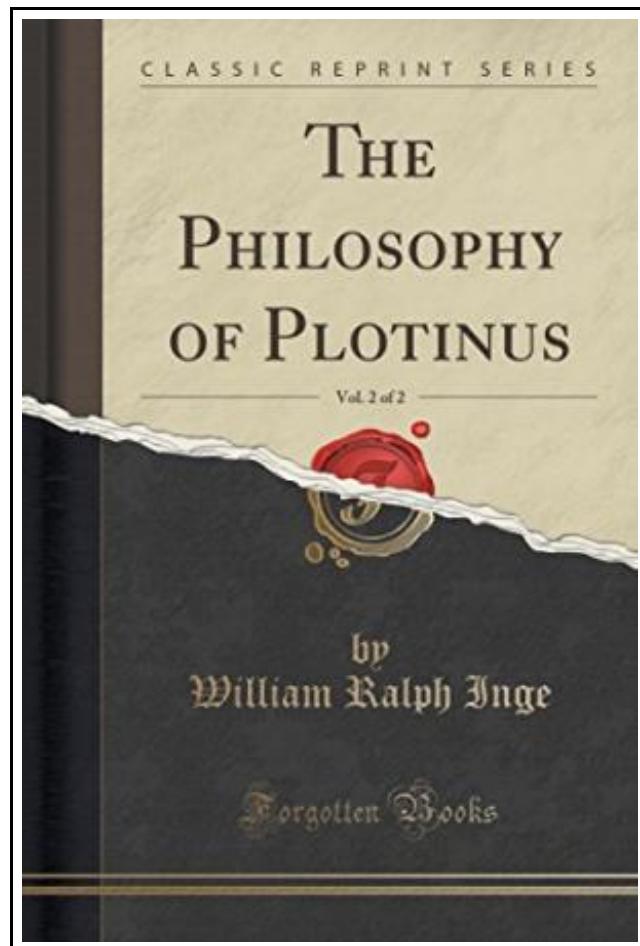


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Excerpt from The Philosophy of Plotinus, Vol. 2 of 2 We are the activity of Spirit. His disparagement of mere action which is not based on spiritual enlightenment is quite defensible. Free will means spiritual activity; we are not free until our highest selves are liberated, Freedom does not belong to our desires or passions, nor can we control the general order of the world. But our true selves are not cogs in a machine; we are the machine itself and the mind which directs it. Exaggerated determinism destroys the idea of causation. Each Soul is a little first cause, and the Universal Soul is above the antithesis of freedom and necessity. Necessity includes freedom. The highest stage - unification - hardly belongs to ethics; but the noble doctrine that there is progress even yonder, depends on the doctrine of the One. Love, the activity of the Soul desiring the Good, is never transcended. In spite of this, the moral isolation of the sage may be regarded as a defect in Neoplatonic ethics. The Religion of Plotinus is really independent of the Pagan Gods and their cultus. He allegorises the myths in the most arbitrary manner. But he believes in the daemons, who rule the intermediate sphere between earth and heaven. This was a current belief of the time, which has no inner connexion with his philosophy. Similarly, magic and sorcery, though he dislikes and minimises them, could not be repudiated. Theurgy is no integral part of Neoplatonism; but the school fell into it later, and even helped to elevate superstition into a dogma. Prayer, especially the prayer of quiet, was the life of religion for the Neoplatonist....

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