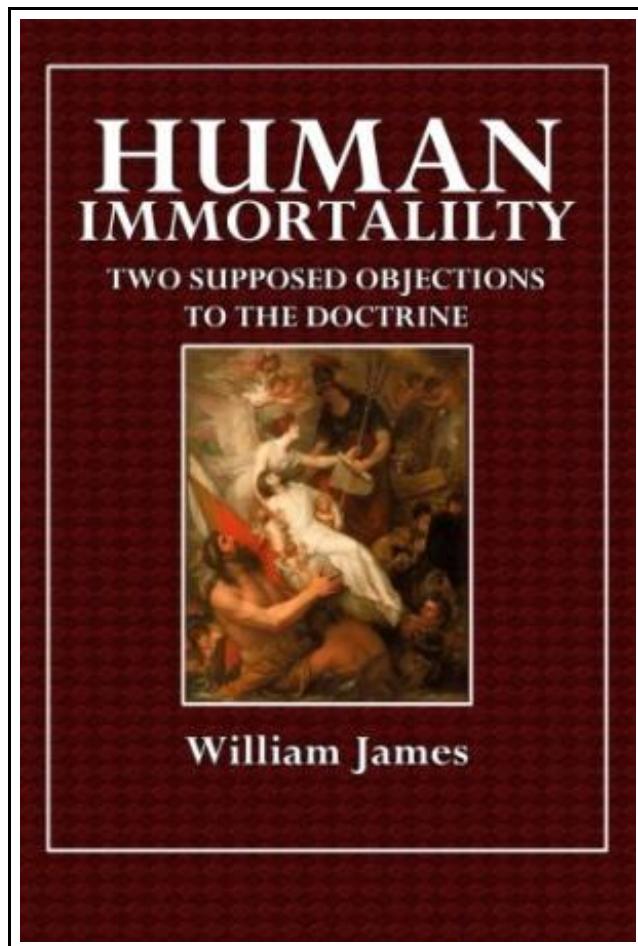


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Createspace, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. This is the well-known address which Professor James delivered as the first lecture on the Ingersoll foundation. His purpose was, not to set forth the positive grounds upon which a belief in human immortality may be founded, but to clear the way for constructive teaching by removing two supposed objections to the doctrine. The first of these difficulties relates to the psycho-physiological contention that, if our inner life is a function of the brain, it is impossible for the function to persist after its organ has undergone decay. Adopting, at least for argumentative purposes, the general formula that thought is a function of the brain. Professor James endeavors to show that the fatal consequence of disbelieving in immortality is not logically coercive, by pointing out that it rests upon the unwarranted presupposition that there is only one kind of function, namely, the productive function. But we are entitled also to consider permissive or transmissive function, which not only is in itself just as scientifically credible as the more popular theory of production, but also possesses certain positive superiorities, since it is in greater harmony with idealistic philosophy, in closer touch with the psychological conception of a threshold, and can more easily explain that whole class of experiences which is the object of investigation by the psychical researchers. Inasmuch then as the theory of transmission is a palpable alternative, the fangs of cerebralistic materialism are drawn, and a conception of reality may be derived in accordance with which the genuine matter of reality, the life of souls as it is in its fullness, will break through our several brains into this world in all sorts of restricted forms, and...

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