

Linda Simon

GENUINE REALITY

A LIFE OF WILLIAM JAMES



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It started with
John Mc Dermott -
Linda Senior's professor
when / where
b. 1842 - William
b. 1843 - Harry

Stupid medicine
Depression (uncontrollable)
Emotionally, phantom
thoughts of suicide

1867
Time in Germany
Whole family sick: Alice / Harry
(P. 114) William
What did word Insanity mean
in 19th Century (P. 118)

P 357 -
two statements by
James - read them to
author and see if she
can explain
Why were so many people
entranced if didn't
agree with him
or understand
him.

Pragmatism

Pluralism

radical empiricism

} his legacy to us

two of his students - Walter Dill Scott / Gertrude Stein

Swedenborg - the rejection of selfhood

James - Distained intellectual elite

Leonora Evelina Piper (p. 199)

The Chew Chew movement of William Gladstone p. 312

James had no doctorate p. 327

Why was the Popical Research Movement so
controversial - Leonora Piper p. 306

468. Linda Simon
on Genuine Reality: A Life of
James
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GENUINE REALITY

Gifford lectures in Edinburgh

William James - "a piecemeal supernaturalist" p 309

took (rough) mind altering drugs. - Mystical experiences

James - suffered from: Chronic indigestion
frequent fatigue
pessimistic outlook on life

Horace Fletcher - mind cures - followed
Gladstone diet - Chew-Chew movement 32X's
p 328

James Doctroler - talked about U. of Chicago - John Dewey
W.J. - fostered intellectual independence

He was worried he would be characterized as
"talker to teacher" "idigenous experience"

BOOKNOTES
1998-06-07

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F E D C B A

He wrote for the Nation and Atlantic Monthly
as long as his work was an experiment he
was happy but if he had to commit he found
an excuse to retreat

at home philosophical hypochondria a way of life
P 137

His father's monism
His pluralism

Jame's was extravagant with his clothing
Ellie was frugal

Principles - W.J. first original book at 48

Talks To Teachers - lectures fall 1894

p271 teacher - crossed for the part

Money - for books and lectures

Walter Lippmann
his student - tea
in the afternoons

What was Putnam's Camp

His two sons -

Germany trip - 1882 - goals - to improve in physical and mental health

What was relationship between William and his father

After Henry Sr. died did you change Harry's name back to Henry p182

W. J. edited his dead father's work (p 88)
"ideas are singularly unvaried and few"

SPP - Society for Psychical Research p191

He brooded on his personality

Absolute beginnings p128

Charles Renouvier

Charles Eliot becomes Sec. of Harvard at age 35

Henry Bowditch offers James his first professional job

Putnam Camp
Keene Valley in the Adirondecks

Alice Howe Gibbens - met in 1876
met through the Radical Club

She was 29 James 36 m. July 10, 1878

Herman dies July 9 1885 scarlet fever

Mt. Chocoma

contrivances in politics." And, above all, "Perhaps no form of government needs great leaders so much as democracy."

William James, *Writings* (2 volumes, Library of America, 1992). The most American of philosophers, a wonderfully relaxed, humane, and engaging writer (his brother Henry, people used to say, wrote novels like a psychologist, while William wrote psychology like a novelist), he moved on from psychology to philosophy. James's pragmatism, with its argument that the meaning of ideas lies in their practical consequences, could not have been more in the American vein.

So too was his argument for pluralism and an open universe against those who contend for a monist system and a closed universe. People, James wrote, can discover partial and limited truths, truths that work for them, but no one can discover absolute truths. He rejected the notion that the world can be understood from a single point of view, as he rejected the assumption that all virtuous principles are in the end reconcilable and "the great single-word answers to the world's riddle" and "the pretence of finality in truth." He had an exhilarating faith in the adventure of an unfinished universe. The Library of America has done its usual masterful job in bringing his books and essays together in two compact volumes.

Henry Adams, *The Education of Henry Adams* (1918). Where William James saw the future as an exciting adventure, his friend and contemporary Henry

*The Disuniting of America
Books Indispensable to an
Understanding of America*