

A silhouette of a man's back and shoulders is centered against a sunset sky. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon. The man's hands are on his hips, and he is looking out over a dark, flat landscape. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

AS A MAN THINKETH

BY JAMES ALLEN

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James Allen



James Allen (November 28, 1864 - 1912) was a philosophical writer of British nationality known for his inspirational books and poetry. His best known work, *As a Man Thinketh*, was mass produced since its publication in 1903 and has provided a key source of ideas to countless bestselling motivational and self-help authors of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. As a result he is considered as the pioneer of self help movement. As with many of Allen's works, the book's launch was quiet and its full impact was not felt until after his passing.

Born in Leicester, England, into a working class family, Allen was the eldest of three brothers. His mother could neither read nor write while his father, William, was a factory knitter. In 1879, following a downturn in the textile trade of central England, Allen's father traveled alone to America to find work and establish a new home for the family. Within two days of arriving his father was pronounced dead at New York City Hospital, believed to be a case of robbery and murder. At age fifteen, with the family now facing economic disaster, Allen was forced to leave school and find work.

For much of the 1890s, Allen worked as a private secretary and stationer in several British manufacturing firms. In 1893, Allen moved to London where he met Lily Louisa