

Preface to the Third Edition

The edition generously paid for by Dr. Lluria has been out of print for more than three years. To satisfy American demand, we were obliged to reprint this booklet in two of their scientific journals. We also granted the same license to a Spanish literary/scientific corporation when we realized that abandoning this irrelevant little book would be a sin of negligence, as well as disadvantageous.

We have no illusions about the merit of our *discourse*: it has major defects from both the philosophical and literary points of view. Nevertheless, we have undoubtedly managed to enrich and improve the text, along with correcting several flaws, by a more thorough and selective reading of the philosophical and pedagogical literature, and by the experience gained during an additional fifteen years of teaching. But more than anything, the *postscript*—which was added to the end of the second edition at Dr. Lluria's request—has been completely rewritten. This was a wrenching task because an anguished heart cannot control the rhythm of its beat. It would have been inopportune and indiscreet under the circumstances to reprint it now as it appeared then.

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However, we decided not to undertake a detailed editing of this modest little product of youth. Whether good or bad, every book has a spiritual personality. The public knows this and demands that the author respect it; they do not want it replaced under the guise of improvement. And this could very easily happen today, when, on the threshold of old age, we appear (and occasionally are) somehow defective. It is precisely this feature that attracts the reader's attention and gains his sympathy—just as with men, we admire and respect books for their good qualities; but we can only love them for certain faults that they display.

So, in the event that this feeling is not an illusion, we preserved essentially the same flavor in this third edition of the 1897 text. We made relatively few alterations in style and added only a paragraph here and there to help explain certain ideas that were highlighted superficially in the text. In addition, however, the present edition contains several new chapters, including the final one where we outline to the best of our humble understanding the work that the Spanish educational institutions (especially the *Junta de Pensiones y Ampliación de estudio en el extranjero*) have been charged with accomplishing—to assure that our country may collaborate in the management of universal culture and civilization in the shortest possible time, based on our intellectual and financial resources.

Madrid, January 1912

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