



# The Devil's Race-Track: Mark Twain's Great Dark Writings

*Mark Twain , John S. Tuckey (Introduction)*

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**The Devil's Race-Track: Mark Twain's Great Dark Writings** Mark Twain , John S. Tuckey  
(Introduction)

Mark Twain explores the darker side of life in these lesser-known later writings dealing with personal tragedies, nightmarish world events, and a doubtful cosmic order. He views his own situation as that of a ship trapped in a fearsome Bermuda Triangle-like region, the *Devil's Race-Track*. He sees history as a treadmill of endlessly and monotonously repeated events. And he conceives of a universal food chain, a vast round of devourers who in their turn become victims, humankind and God included. The tone of these writings is lightened considerably by Mark Twain's sagely ironic humor and his warmth, which together balance his tough-mindedness. And even when he shows the human race caught in some vicious circle, he may be seen courageously seeking a way out and at times believing he has found it.

### The Devil's Race-Track: Mark Twain's Great Dark Writings Details

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### **adam prometheus says**

an entertaining and thought-provoking collection. a window into Twains thoughts and an example of his far-reaching imagination. My favorites are "Little Bessie", about a little girl who asks difficult questions about God, etc, "Thoughts on God", which explores the question of the common housefly, "3,000 Years Among the Microbes", about a man who is transformed into a microbe inside a human body and finds microbe civilization to be strikingly similar to human civilization (this one is especially interesting, an elaborate metaphor of the microcosm/macrocosm and the role of the human in the greater universe, the souls of 'lower animals', etc.), and "The Yellow Scourge", a lovely fable about butterflies and bees (or is it angels and humans?) There are also political writings, and ship-voyages on treacherous seas and across a drop of water. Great bed-time reading.

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### **Bjm Index says**

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### **Marc says**

Life ain't all sunshine and roses, Sandy.

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