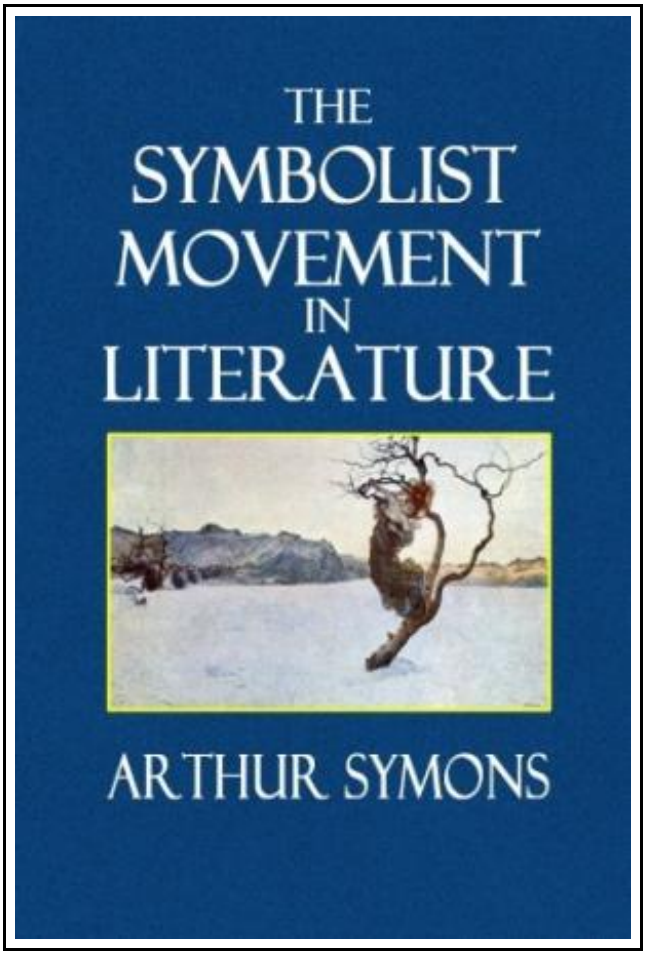
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Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Giovanni Segantini (illustrator). Revised. 226 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.An excerpt from the INTRODUCTION: WITHOUT symbolism there can be no literature; indeed, not even language. What are words themselves but symbols, almost as arbitrary as the letters which compose them, mere sounds of the voice to which we have agreed to give certain significations, as we have agreed to translate these sounds by those combinations of letters? Symbolism began with the first words uttered by the first man, as he named every living thing; or before them, in heaven, when God named the world into being. And we see, in these beginnings, precisely what Symbolism in literature really is: a form of expression, at the best but approximate, essentially but arbitrary, until it has obtained the force of a convention, for an unseen reality apprehended by the consciousness. It is sometimes permitted to us to hope that our convention is indeed the reflection rather than merely the sign of that unseen reality. We have done much if we have found a recognisable sign. A symbol, says Comte Goblet d Alviella, in his book on The Migration of Symbols, might be defined as a representation which does not aim at being a reproduction. Originally, as he points out, used by the Greeks to denote the two halves of the tablet they divided between themselves as a pledge of hospitality, it came to be used of every sign, formula, or rite by which those initiated in any mystery made themselves secretly known to one another. Gradually the word extended its meaning, until it came to denote every conventional representation of idea by form, of the unseen by the visible. In a Symbol, says Carlyle, there...

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