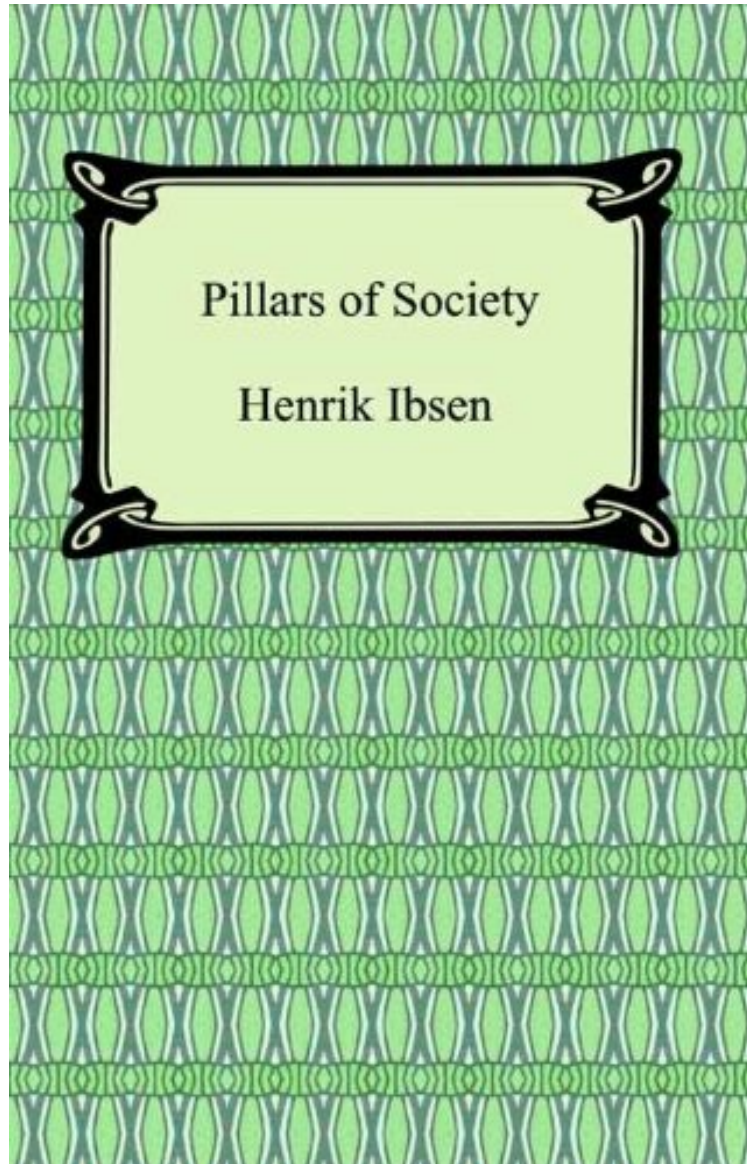


[Get free] Pillars of Society

Pillars of Society

Henrik Ibsen

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Henrik Ibsen : Pillars of Society before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pillars of Society:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. goodBy Danya Gonnella the play itself is great. the wait to get it was a little long but came in great condition. ;0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. visionaryBy Brownie Maker Visionary.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. What is it that maintains society?By Israel Drazin Who or what are the "pillars of society"? The Jewish ethical work called Ethics of the Fathers 1:2 reports that

Simon the Just said that the earth endures because of three things, two of which are religious: "Torah, divine worship, and acts of loving-kindness." However, in 1:18 of the same volume, Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel offers a practical idea, "the world rests on three things: truth, justice, and peace." Henrik Ibsen has a similar view. The protagonist in this excellent play is Bernick, is a highly respected owner of a ship building business. Bernick lives in a society that he controls because of his wealth and the prestige that wealth produces. He donated many items to his community and placed his name on them. At one point in the play there is a mass demonstration of citizens praising him. But Ibsen shows us why we should despise him. Bernick insists that his community follow the traditional ways, meaning the behavior that the masses sanctioned for some generations, notions that they read into the Bible although a fair reading would not find them, ideas that stagnate human development and societal advancement, thoughts that enlightened people reject. He views women as inferior to men, childlike, foolish, unable to understand, beings that should be subservient to men. He talks down to his wife during the few times that he talks to her. Outrageously, he says to her at one point, as if he were speaking to a wall, I have no one to talk to. Dina, a young woman who he squashes because of his view of women, says that her life in this city is "so proper and so moral" that it is impossible to live with these people. Lona, another character, comes to Bernick's house, to "let in fresh air." Ibsen shows that Bernick is a hypocrite, a liar, a crook, a man who intends, in a Bernie Madoff fashion, to steal from people who trust him, a man who could care less about seeing people die if he can make money. He persuaded a close relative into taking the blame for one of his crimes, and this individual suffered for more than a decade because of it. Ibsen ends his book by saying that the true builders of society are not people, but "the spirit of truth and the spirit of freedom," the very things that Bernick squashed.

"Pillars of Society" is the story of Karsten Bernick, a prominent businessman in a small Norwegian coastal town. Karsten comes from a wealthy shipping and shipbuilding family yet he has aspirations for an even greater enterprise. When he begins secretly buying up land in the valley between the town and the main rail line, which he is backing a new rail connection to, his scandalous past suddenly comes back to him in the form of Johan Tonnesen, his wife's younger brother, who has just returned from America. Written in 1877, Ibsen's "Pillars of Society" predates a string of masterpieces by the dramatist that would ultimately secure his place in literary history. While criticized for its ending, the play accurately portrays the power of the rich to often rise above the power of the law.

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