

'Figment' (pub. 06.09.15-11:29). Quote in M. Bergman & S. Paavola (Eds.), *The Commens Dictionary: Peirce's Terms in His Own Words. New Edition*. Retrieved from <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-harvard-lectures-pragmatism-lecture-vi-5>.

Term: Figment

Quote: It is true that when the Arabian romancer tells us that there was a lady named Scherherazade, he does not mean to be understood as speaking of the world of outward realities, and there is a great deal of fiction in what he is talking about. For the *fictive* is that whose characters depend upon what characters somebody attributes to it; and the story is, of course, the mere creation of the poet's thought. Nevertheless, once he has imagined Scherherazade and made her young, beautiful, and endowed with a gift of spinning stories, it becomes a real fact that so he has imagined her, which fact he cannot destroy by pretending or thinking that he imagined her to be otherwise.

Source: Peirce, C. S. (1903). *Harvard Lectures on Pragmatism: Lecture VI*. MS [R] 314.

References: PPM 221-2; CP 5.152

Date of 1903

Quote:

URL: <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-harvard-lectures-pragmatism-lecture-vi-5>