Term: Anthropomorphism

Quote: If I were to attach a definite meaning to “anthropomorphism,” I should think it stood to reason that a man could not have any idea that was not anthropomorphic, and that it was simply to repeat the error of Kant to attempt to escape anthropomorphism. At the same time, I am confident a man can pretty well understand the thoughts of his horse, his jocose parrot, and his canary-bird, so full of espièglerie; and though his representation of those thoughts must, I suppose, be more or less falsified by anthropomorphism, yet that there is a good deal more truth than falsity in them, – and more than if he were to attempt the impossible task of eliminating the anthropomorphism I am for the present sufficiently convinced.


References: MS [R] 293:1-2; NEM 4:313

Date of Quote: 1906-7

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-pap-ed-3