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Science Set Free: 10 Paths to New Discovery



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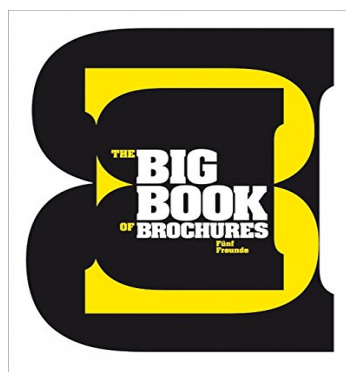
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Science Set Free: 10 Paths to New Discovery

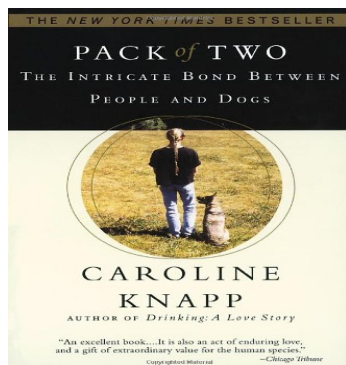
The bestselling author of *Dogs That Know When Their Owners Are Coming Home* offers an intriguing new assessment of modern day science that will radically change the way we view what is possible. In *Science Set Free* (originally published to acclaim in the UK as *The Science Delusion*), Dr. Rupert Sheldrake, one of the world's most innovative scientists, shows the ways in which science is being constricted by assumptions that have, over the years, hardened into dogmas. Such dogmas are not only limiting, but dangerous for the future of humanity. According to these principles, all of reality is material or physical; the world is a machine, made up of inan

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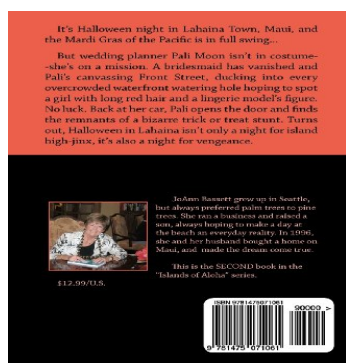
The Big Book of Brochures

Brochure design is critical in the world of marketing and graphic design, yet can be challenging to execute successfully. The Big Book of Brochures is an extraordinary visual collection featuring work from top designers around the globe. It offers hundreds of ideas, pages of inspiration, and loads



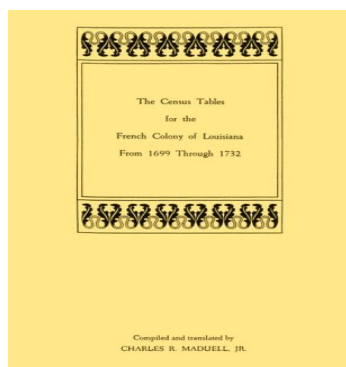
Pack of Two: The Intricate Bond Between People and Dogs

At the age of 36, Caroline Knapp, author of the acclaimed bestseller *Drinking: A Love Story*, found herself confronted with a monumental task: redefining her world. She had faced the loss of both her parents, given up a twenty-year relationship with alcohol, and, as she writes, "I was



Livin' Lahaina Loca (Island of Aloha)

It's Halloween night in Lahaina Town, Maui and the Mardi Gras of the Pacific is in full swing... But wedding planner Pali Moon isn't in costume--she's on a mission. A bridesmaid has vanished and Pali's canvassing Front Street, ducking into every overcrowded watering hole hoping to spot a girl with



The Census Tables for the French Colony of Louisiana from 1699 Through 1732

This is a compilation of the twenty-eight earliest census records of Louisiana. Such records have proved time and again to be the foundation and touchstone of modern genealogy. These particular census records cover, at one period or another, Fort Maurepas, Biloxi, Mobile, Natchez, New Orleans, and

by el james free

What others say about this ebook:

Review 1:

Some of what Sheldrake writes is highly speculative and of course open for debate, but so much more is a highly rational, clear-minded exposition of how the materialist world view is not only not based on science, but actually contradicted by many findings, along with logic and everyday realities.

Review 2:

Interesting book. Have not read this one yet. But have read others if his.

Review 3:

Good read on important questions I was thinking about but not able to completely articulate

Thanks for the brave book

Review 4:

A point not noted in the 136 other reviews (which I read) is that Sheldrake's brilliant critiques are never-the-less very one-sided.

PRO:

Sheldrake's great strength is as a critic of materialism. In "The Presence of the Past" his analysis of the legacy of the twisted and opposing threads of Aristotelianism and Platonism was masterful. In the present volume, he presents some beautiful new insights, the most dramatic of which is his proposal that the speed of light and other physical "constants" are not in fact constant, but variable either cyclically, chaotically, or as a long-term trend. This seems very well worth further investigation and could conceivably require a (welcome to me) revision of Dr. Einstein's theory.

CON:

However, I am critical of other aspects of Sheldrake's thinking, one being Sheldrake's own pet theory of "Morphic Resonance"; the more important is his refusal to apply his critical thinking to religion. The theory of Morphic Resonance appears to me to be at best an unprovable tautology. I admire it for a starting place, but I await a better theory or a better development of Morphic Resonance, which has remained static since Sheldrake's first books 30 years or more ago.

In fact, given Sheldrake's enthusiastic association with psychonaut Terence McKenna, I have come to suspect the origin of the Morphic Resonance theory in some uniquely personal, possibly psychedelic, vision at some formative period of Sheldrake's life, which had a mystical component unamenable to later analysis, like McKenna's I-Ching Time-wave theory.

(That not all psychedelic experience leads to fuzzy and untranslatable mystical visions or uncritical endorsement of religious ideas is demonstrated by the posthumous revelation that arch-atheist Francis Crick was a closet LSD user and that his elucidation of the structure of DNA was arrived at "under the influence".)

However, it is my observation that the mystical (and psychedelic) experiences of people I have personally known tend to fall back into uncritical endorsements of religion ("I saw God!") only because materialism offers them no explanation whatsoever. This appears to be Sheldrake's own position: he refrains utterly from any informed critique of his religious associates and occasional

co-authors, while seemingly uncritically endorsing such thinkers as Aurobindo and Teilhard de Chardin, who IMO need some serious deconstruction. I find the grafting of evolutionism onto the traditional religious structures of Catholicism and Hinduism to result in very strange hybrids. Chardin's involvement in "Piltdown Man" is a pretty sour mark on his record, too.

Sheldrake's writing is full of generalized references to religion as the source of "experiences of unity" and similar broad concepts. He also trots out this tired comment: (p 338) "statistical research has shown that people who attend religious services regularly tend to live longer, have better health and are less prone to depression..." without any comment on the resulting cognitive dissonance arising from being asked to express out loud a belief in several logical impossibilities before breakfast. "I believe in one God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven etc..." - when this has become impossible to believe any more. Religion requires an overhaul, and Scientology obviously doesn't cut it, having its own impossible beliefs ("I'm a 6 billion yr old Thetan...").

Furthermore, Sheldrake shows no awareness of the history of religions or of their different logical types. The lumping of all religions together as leading "all to the same goal" is a serious intellectual error. My most trusted analysis of the phenomenon of religion is to be found in the first 3 volumes of Joseph Campbell's masterwork "The Masks of God", which identifies and describes the political, social and historical backgrounds and origins of the major religions. (This descriptive phase of Campbell's work should not be confused with his later, misguided (IMO) prescriptive phase, where he promotes the "Hero's Journey" as a new religious model.) In Campbell's analysis in "The Masks of God", there appear a number of distinct distinct historical stages in the development of religions as we know them now, culminating historically in the later political totalitarian phase represented by Christianity and Islam, in which belief was demanded at the point of a sword, or else: this constituting a new phase of human-generated selection of non-intellectuals who would chose faith over reason for the sake of their own survival and the survival of their children. Imagine Galileo's dad: "Hey, kid, don't you think you ought to tone it down?" We in the west are all products of this 1000-yr process of selection for sheep who will choose faith over reason.

All existing major religions have their intellectual and theological origins under the mantle of a Pre-Copernican cosmology which is now obsolete, the chief relevant feature of which was the "fixed sphere of the stars" which offered a dwelling place for God as the "Mover" (whether "unmoved" or dancing) of the spheres from outside. For instance, in the well-known image of Shiva dancing, the God holds a little hour-glass shaped drum which represents the cycle of the precession of the equinoxes, i.e., "all of time and space" in Bronze Age terms. (A good deal of the legacy of Bronze Age theology has to do with religious responses to unexpected earthquakes, asteroid strikes, solar flares: see Robert Schoch's work, consider Sodom and Gomorrah, etc.) The major problem with "believing" is that the basic cosmological assumptions underlying the religions are obsolete, and this cannot be remedied even for the sake of rescuing the moral sense of humanity (ever a dubious proposition anyway).

The intellectual triumph of the post-Copernican model leaves no place for God except possibly skulking in a black hole somewhere. This indeed leaves a terrible emotional void, a default existentialism which cannot be satisfied by sullen acquiescence to Sunday morning Gospel lessons - I cannot stomach, in this context, the goal that we should "live longer, have better health and [be] less prone to depression" by submitting our minds to obsolete crap. But we may well ask, "Where is the Sacred in modern life?" - which Sheldrake does not address, preferring to spend his time criticizing science.

The "discussion" between the Intelligent Designers and Richard Dawkins has assumed cartoon-like proportions and amounts only to name-calling, and does not offer any coherent solution to the strong emotional need of humanity for an ethical and meaningful vision of life. The modern liberal-progressive vision of a non-religious ethics does not work because it has no place for the enmity-amity complex (see Robert Ardrey's work) which is now supplied covertly by political manipulation of religious animosities. It would be nice if Sheldrake, whose heart I really believe is in the right place, would work his critical mind in both directions, toward religion as well as toward materialism, and thereby contribute more effectively to some new synthesis. As it is, he has barely risen above name-calling himself.

Review 5:

This book deals with the presuppositions of science which hamper open minded research. Who says the speed of light is constant? Who says the paranormal is all superstition? If science will not get out of its box and turn researchers loose, we will end up one day with the equivalent of the flat earth theory. Good book well done.

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