



The Ghost in the Universe: God in Light of Modern Science

By Taner Edis

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Is there a God, or a spiritual reality beyond nature? Physicist Taner Edis takes a fresh look at this age-old question, focusing on what we have learned about our world rather than on traditional metaphysical disputes. Emphasizing a search for explanation rather than listing flaws in theistic metaphysics, Edis uses the results of natural science to present a world where complexity, intelligence, and even the sublime heights of religious experience emerge from what is ultimately material and random.

Sympathetically criticizing Muslim and New Age perspectives, as well as Jewish and Christian arguments, Edis argues that a thoroughgoing naturalism leads to a much better explanation of our world. While making it clear that spiritual views have a genuine intellectual appeal, Edis systematically critiques such arguments, contrasting them with stronger naturalistic explanations. Science is central to this naturalistic picture; modern physics, evolutionary biology, and critical history, as well as contemporary psychology and brain sciences, all cast doubt on any spiritual reality.

Bringing together ideas from many disciplines in a style that remains accessible to nonspecialists, and also interesting to scientists and philosophers, Edis provides an informative, in-depth statement of the case for scientific naturalism as the most accurate and powerful description of our world today.

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Editorial Review

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Bringing twentieth-century sophistication to Laplace's famous eighteenth-century dismissal of God as an unnecessary hypothesis, Edis deploys a rigorous scientific materialism to explain all the marvels of religious faith. That means exorcising spiritual forces from all the miracles of scriptural tradition, from every transport of psychological ecstasy, from every inspiring moral reflection. Edis effects this cosmic exorcism by invoking astrophysics to explain the earth's creation and evolutionary biology to account for the emergence of the human mind. In his zeal to establish his godless credo, Edis challenges not only the precepts of Judaism and Christianity but also those of Islam and New Age mysticism. Of course, religious readers will resist the attempt to compress all truth within the scope of rational demonstration. Some of the devout may even suspect that Edis is conceding more than he realizes when in his conclusion he admits that--despite all of their scientific inadequacies--scriptural poetry and sacred myth still speak to deep human needs. A careful defense of empirical reasoning. *Bryce Christensen*

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Review

"...a thoughtful reflection on the problems of belief in God by someone who has wrestled honestly with these questions." -- *Research News and Opportunities in Science and Theology*

"...engaging, well-written...presents scientific naturalism at its best. Highly recommended." -- *Free Inquiry, Winter 2002*

"...good enough to benefit believers and nonbelievers alike." -- *The Skeptic*

"...may be one of the few truly essential books about science and religion of recent times." -- *Skeptical Inquirer, Nov/Dec 2003*

"...offers alternative ways to look at and understand the world around us..." -- *About.com*

"a substantive book about science, religion and philosophy...extensive research demonstrated in numerous footnotes and an excellent index..." -- *Rain Taxi Review of Books, Winter 2002/2003*

About the Author

Taner Edis (Kirksville, MO) is assistant professor of physics at Truman State University.

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Laura Hargis:

The Ghost in the Universe: God in Light of Modern Science can be one of your beginning books that are a good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, but entertaining but delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to get every word into a delightful arrangement in writing *The Ghost in the Universe: God in Light of Modern Science* nevertheless doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and based confirmed resource facts that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can certainly draw you into a new stage of crucial pondering.

Lorraine Wheat:

The book entitled *The Ghost in the Universe: God in Light of Modern Science* contains a lot of information on that. The writer explains your idea with an easy approach. The language is very easy to understand for all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easily read the item. The book was written by a famous author. The author will bring you in the new time of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can read more on your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can widely open their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice read.

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