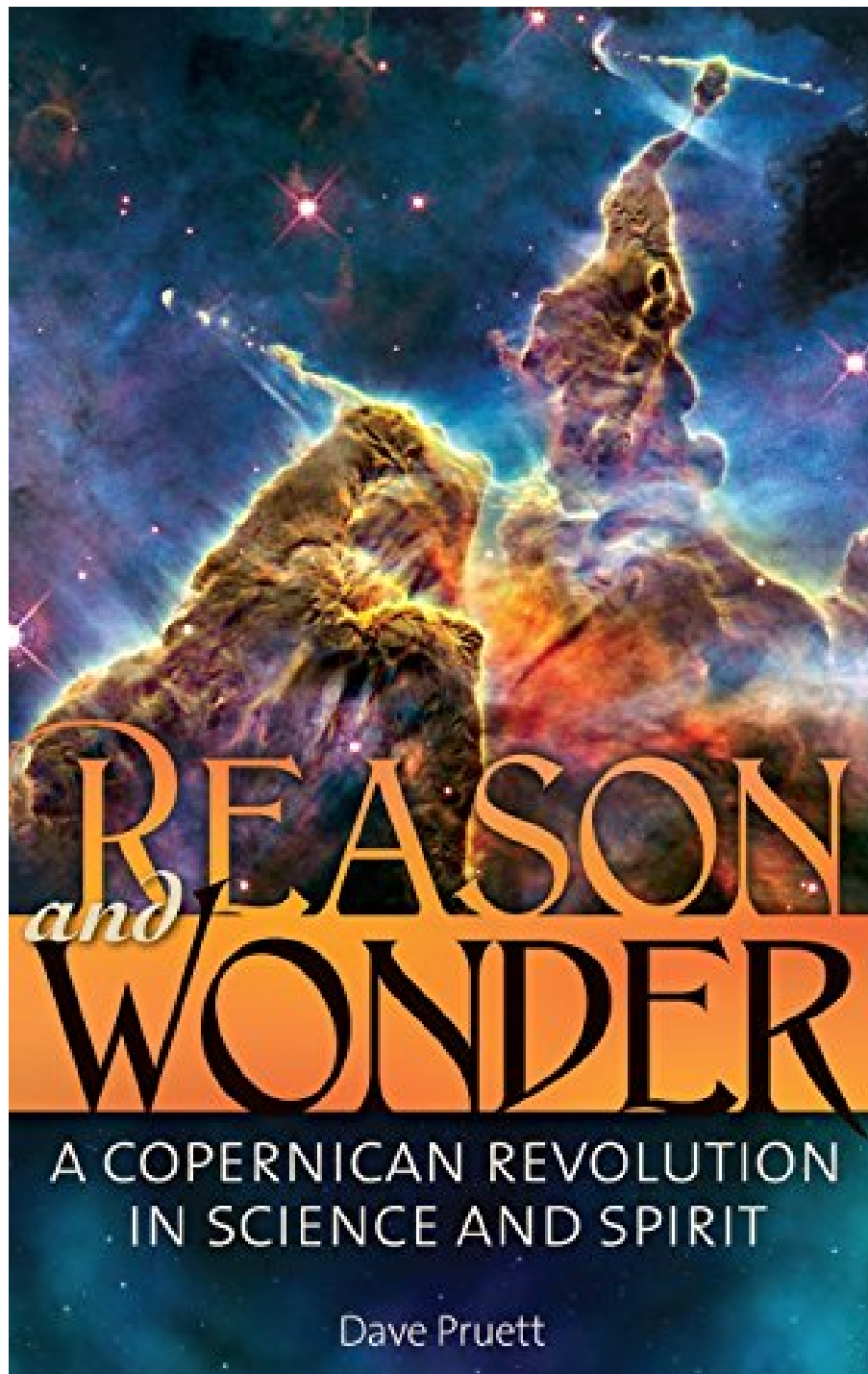


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REVOLUTION IN SCIENCE AND SPIRIT BY  
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"This is a significant major work for the science and religion dialogue. In seventeen concise and well-written chapters the author has summarized the history of the enlightenment which led to the practice of science. The major scientists involved come alive with anecdotes of their personal behaviors and interests. . . . This book is an excellent one for small group discussion. The extensive notes and bibliography encourage further exploration into the science and religion dialogue." --Wesley Nexus

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"Reading this book has given me immense intellectual satisfaction and filled me with great wonder. Pruett's masterly account offers a breathtaking, awe-inspiring insight into the complex history of modern science with its successive revolutions in our understanding of space, time, matter, energy, and now spirit. The author is an accomplished story teller in command of an impressive range of facts, figures and events. A truly dazzling achievement. Following this intriguing tale opens up a vision of true audacity and grandeur that will change your thinking forever." --Ursula King, Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Bristol, England

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7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

The Mystery of Life

By Linda A. Dove

With Reason and Wonder you are in for an absorbing read. Dave Pruett describes scientific revolutions in the context of his wonder and awe at the spiritual basis of life and the universe. As a polymath scientist, the author has told a compelling story of the major scientific revolutions over many centuries. He shows how they have overturned our concepts of humanity and our place in the universe. In this, he is the successor to Thomas Kuhn who wrote, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, a highly provocative work when published in 1962. Pruett brings the science story up to date and brings back to life the scientists who changed our ideas about the origins of the universe, the evolution of life, and the properties of matter.

At the same time as telling the stories, Pruett is meticulous in describing the strengths and failings of the scientific "proofs", and in pointing out what is yet unknown. Gratifyingly for me, a non-scientist, I found I could understand most his scientific explanations (though a few of the equations lost me). Even though I had to take one or two chapters just a few pages at a time to follow their logic, I found it well worth the effort to finish the book. My enhanced understanding of earth-shaking--even heaven-shaking--findings about the planet, the universe, and the origins of life, enables me now to share the author's excitement at the way scientific knowledge and the spiritual-philosophical wisdom of the ages is converging in new insights.

Pruett starts the last section of the book by acknowledging his debt to the writings of Teilhard de Chardin, the famous 20th century Jesuit priest-philosopher, who became an expert geologist and palaeontologist as well. Inspired to go further with de Chardin's ideas, Pruett argues from the emerging evidence that consciousness is not a product of evolution but the purpose of evolution. I wanted the author to take me down this trail even further. But the nature of consciousness is, and always has been, one of the biggest mysteries facing mankind. Researching it needs a multidisciplinary approach that weds scientific and non-scientific disciplines and methods of inquiry which we do not yet have.

The mystery is intriguing because our human consciousness cannot be tested with the conventional tools of science--seeing, touching, smelling, tasting, hearing, microscopes, measuring and so on. We all know we are conscious and we assume consciousness emanates from our minds. But, again, we do not have the scientific tools to test that hypothesis because the mind is not accessible to the senses; it is all we have, though: the subject, the object, and the tool for doing research. In turn, we assume that the brain in our heads mediates our minds--our thinking, feelings, emotions, behavior (though some medical researchers are pretty sure the gut also works like a brain). So, the R&D initiative recently announced by President Obama could not be more timely. Funds for brain research promise advances on diseases such as stroke, Alzheimer's, dementia, and mental illness, but also insights into the mysteries of consciousness, spirit and matter, mind and brain, and the dynamics of life itself. Dave Pruett's book is a masterly and sympathetic work that draws a pioneering map of how we might begin to part the veil on these mysteries. Take the time to enjoy it.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Science and spirit for the new millenium

By alumnaeguy1908

For those students of science and faith, "Reason and Wonder" offers important insights into the under-reported and under-appreciated interplay between these two distinct but related fields. Pruett respects science and spirit as defining features of the human condition and empathizes with those struggling with the

inadequacies of both to explain it. The author's prose is well-crafted (especially in walking the reader through the cosmically large and minutely complicated science behind his thesis) and his enthusiasm is addictive. His reverence for the great scientists is bolstered by his respect for them as people of profound faith. That so many of them struggled with the interplay of Science and Religion seems prescient, given the schism in the modern era. The reader undoubtedly laments this artifact -- Pruett lays out numerous ways in which science and faith can (and must) inform each other. This book comes highly recommended.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

On Reason and Wonder

By Catherine Huber

Dave Pruett does a masterful job of making the complex understandable. Written with both sensitivity and a keen sense of humor, the book speaks to anyone who has felt a conflict between science and religion.

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