

THE
ILLUSION
OF
GOD'S
PRESENCE

The Biological Origins
of Spiritual Longing

John C. Wathey

Online Book Illusion Gods Presence Biological Spiritual

Rachel S Tattersall



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The Phantom God John C. Wathey, 2022-10-15 Does neuroscience have anything to say about religious belief or the existence of God Some have tried to answer this question but in doing so most have strayed from the scientific method In *The Phantom God* computational biologist and neuroscientist John C Wathey Ph D tackles this problem head on exploring religious feelings not as the direct perception by the brain of some supernatural realm nor as the pathological misfiring of neurons but as a natural consequence of how our brains are wired Unlike other neurobiological studies of religion and spirituality *The Phantom God* treats mysticism not as something uniquely human and possibly supernatural in origin but as a completely natural phenomenon that has behavioral and evolutionary roots that can be traced far back into our vertebrate ancestry Grounded in evolutionary and behavioral biology this highly original and compelling book takes the reader on a journey through the neural circuitry of crying innate knowledge reinforcement learning emotional bonding embodiment interpersonal perception and the ineffable feeling of certainty that characterizes faith Wathey argues that the feeling of God's presence is spawned by innate neural circuitry similar to the mechanism that compels an infant to cry out for its mother In an adult this circuitry can be activated under conditions that mimic the extreme desperation and helplessness of infancy generating the compelling illusion of the presence of a loving powerful and all knowing savior When seen from this perspective the illusion also appears remarkably like one that has long been familiar to neurologists the phantom limb of the amputee spawned by the expectation of the patient's brain that the missing limb should still be there Including a primer on the basic concepts and terminology of neuroscience *The Phantom God* details the neural mechanisms behind the illusions and emotions of spiritual experience

Miracles Today Craig S. Keener, 2021-10-19 Do miracles still happen today This book demonstrates that miraculous works of God which have been part of the experience of the church around the world since Christianity began continue into the present Leading New Testament scholar Craig Keener addresses common questions about miracles and provides compelling reasons to believe in them today including many accounts that offer evidence of verifiable miracles This book gives an accessible and concise overview of one of Keener's most significant research topics His earlier two volume work on miracles stands as the definitive word on the topic but its size and scope are daunting to many readers This new book summarizes Keener's basic argument but contains substantial new material including new accounts of the miraculous It is suitable as a textbook but also accessible to church leaders and laypeople

Drunk in the Spirit Merrill G. Greene, 2025-07-15 Sloshed Hammered Doing carpet time Sipping godka Videos showing people falling down shaking and spontaneously laughing all in church If one has not grown up in the Charismatic or Pentecostal tradition the concept of being drunk in the Spirit likely seems baffling Yet in recent decades the idea of spiritual intoxication has gained traction What should we think about such odd looking manifestations Does the Bible speak of anything like this How should we discern such things In this book readers will find a sustained analysis of passages from the Bible dealing with these very

topics Readers may be shocked at how trances ecstatic episodes and altered states of consciousness are indeed found within the pages of sacred Scripture some of them hidden in one's own cherished stories *Religion Today* Ross Aden,Chris A. Kramer,2024-07-02 Religion Today introduces students to key concepts in religious studies through a compelling problem solving framework Each chapter opens with a contemporary case study that helps students engage in current religious issues explore possible solutions to difficult religious problems today and learn key themes and concepts in religious studies To enhance student learning a free Student Study Guide is available for download from Rowman Littlefield The Study Guide features chapter summaries definition quizzes for students to test themselves on key terms and possible learning activities

Pragmatist Feminism and the Work of Charlene Haddock Seigfried Lee A. McBride III,Erin McKenna,2022-06-02 A contemporary appraisal of the breadth significance and legacy of the work of Charlene Haddock Seigfried this book brings together writings focused on pragmatist feminism feminist pragmatism contemporary pragmatism William James and the reconstruction of philosophy education and American philosophy in the 21st century Charlene Haddock Seigfried is a looming figure in American thought and feminist theory who coined the phrase pragmatist feminist which has become an increasingly important concept in contemporary philosophy Seigfried argues that pragmatism and its rich history is a natural ally for feminism and that the creative combination of these two traditions can pave the way for a genuinely emancipatory feminist practice *Pragmatist Feminism and the Work of Charlene Haddock Seigfried* explores and pushes this theory and brings it into conversation with some of the most vibrant strands of current philosophy **Bulletin of the Atomic**

Scientists ,1959-02 The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists is the premier public resource on scientific and technological developments that impact global security Founded by Manhattan Project Scientists the Bulletin's iconic Doomsday Clock stimulates solutions for a safer world *American Book Publishing Record* ,2007 *Into the Loop* Samuele

Collu,2025-11-28 Based on ethnographic observations of more than two hundred hours of Systemic couples therapy and written in an experimental literary style *Into the Loop* draws from affect theory psychoanalysis and phenomenology to ask how we can interrupt the repetitions that define us *Forthcoming Books* Rose Army,2003-12 **Popular Mechanics**

,2000-01 Popular Mechanics inspires instructs and influences readers to help them master the modern world Whether it's practical DIY home improvement tips gadgets and digital technology information on the newest cars or the latest breakthroughs in science PM is the ultimate guide to our high tech lifestyle *The Advocate* ,2002-11-12 The Advocate is a

lesbian gay bisexual transgender LGBT monthly newsmagazine Established in 1967 it is the oldest continuing LGBT publication in the United States *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* ,1970-06 The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists is the premier public resource on scientific and technological developments that impact global security Founded by Manhattan Project Scientists the Bulletin's iconic Doomsday Clock stimulates solutions for a safer world **Best Life** ,2006-06 Best

Life magazine empowers men to continually improve their physical emotional and financial well being to better enjoy the

most rewarding years of their life Books In Print 2004-2005 Ed Bowker Staff,Staff Bowker, Ed,2004 Los Angeles Magazine ,2003-11 Los Angeles magazine is a regional magazine of national stature Our combination of award winning feature writing investigative reporting service journalism and design covers the people lifestyle culture entertainment fashion art and architecture and news that define Southern California Started in the spring of 1961 Los Angeles magazine has been addressing the needs and interests of our region for 48 years The magazine continues to be the definitive resource for an affluent population that is intensely interested in a lifestyle that is uniquely Southern Californian Books in Print Supplement ,2002 *Popular Mechanics* ,2000-01 Popular Mechanics inspires instructs and influences readers to help them master the modern world Whether it s practical DIY home improvement tips gadgets and digital technology information on the newest cars or the latest breakthroughs in science PM is the ultimate guide to our high tech lifestyle **Quill & Quire** ,1999 Indianapolis Monthly ,2001-12 Indianapolis Monthly is the Circle City s essential chronicle and guide an indispensable authority on what s new and what s news Through coverage of politics crime dining style business sports and arts and entertainment each issue offers compelling narrative stories and lively urbane coverage of Indy s cultural landscape

Cincinnati Magazine ,2001-08 Cincinnati Magazine taps into the DNA of the city exploring shopping dining living and culture and giving readers a ringside seat on the issues shaping the region

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