

How God Works A Logical Inquiry On Faith

Theo-Logic is the third and crowning part of the great trilogy of the masterwork of theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar, following his first two parts, *The Glory of the Lord* and *Theo-Drama*. This is the third volume of *Theo-Logic*. *Theo-Logic* is a variation of theology, it being about not so much what man says about God, but what God speaks about himself. Balthasar does not address the truth about God until he first reflects on the beauty of God (*The Glory of the Lord*). Then he follows with his reflections on the great drama of our salvation and the goodness and mercy of the God who saves us (*Theo-Drama*). Now, in this work, he is ready to reflect on the truth that God reveals about himself, which is not something abstract or theoretical, but rather the concrete and mysterious richness of God's being as a personal and loving God.

The book offers a novel approach to the idea of divinity in guise of a philosophical doctrine called 'Logical Pantheism', according to which the only way to establish the existence of God undeniably is by equating God with Logical Space. Christopher Hitchens, described in the *London Observer* as "one of the most prolific, as well as brilliant, journalists of our time" takes on his biggest subject yet—the increasingly dangerous role of religion in the world. In the tradition of Bertrand Russell's *Why I Am Not a Christian* and Sam Harris's recent bestseller, *The End Of Faith*, Christopher Hitchens makes the ultimate case against religion. With a close and erudite reading of the major religious texts, he documents the ways in which religion is a man-made wish, a cause of dangerous sexual repression, and a distortion of our origins in the cosmos. With eloquent clarity, Hitchens frames the argument for a more secular life based on science and reason, in which hell is replaced by the Hubble Telescope's awesome view of the universe, and Moses and the burning bush give way to the beauty and symmetry of the double helix.

"Science can't explain the complexity and order of life; God must have designed it to be this way." "God's existence is proven by scripture." "There's no evidence that God doesn't exist." "God has helped me so much. How could none of it be true?" "Atheism has killed more people than religion, so it must be wrong!" How many times have you heard arguments like these for why God exists? *Why There Is No God: Simple Responses to 20 Common Arguments for the Existence of God* provides simple, easy-to-understand counterpoints to the most popular arguments made for the existence of God. Each chapter presents a concise explanation of the argument, followed by a response illustrating the problems and fallacies inherent in it. Whether you're an atheist, a believer or undecided, this book offers a solid foundation for building your own inquiry about the concept of God.

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) is widely regarded as America's greatest philosopher-theologian. In the last half century

there has been a resurgence of interest in Edwards' work from historians, theologians and philosophers, aided by the publication of the Yale edition of Edwards' Works. Edwards' thinking on sin has long been a mystery to scholars trying to fit his thought into the traditional categories of Reformed theology. What this study shows is that Edwards' theory of sin was an original contribution to philosophical theology, which can only be understood when read on its own terms as a philosophical theory about the nature of sin, its origin and transmission. This constitutes a substantial contribution to the literature on Edwards and, more broadly, to philosophical theology in general.

Can a religious truth be logically proven, or is religion forever relegated to being a matter of blind faith? If there is a true religion, shouldn't we be able to prove it by now, using scientific data and higher mathematics? This is exactly what Paul Kasch sets out to do in his latest work. The reader is invited to follow along in the investigation process as we:

- Establish an unbiased, neutral mindset
- Look around at the environment we find ourselves living in, and attempt to solve the question of our existence
- Gather the world's major religions, logically arrange and dissect them, and require them to present demonstrable truth of their claims

This book would not exist if the quest failed. Using nothing more than the reasoning prowess we are all born with, a solitary (yet timeless) religious truth emerges as the equation of the only sound logical argument capable of producing such a thing. Use your head for something other than a hat rack and join the author on an intellectual journey which renders all other pursuits trivial by comparison.

Hurting people ask heart-felt questions about God and suffering. Some "answers" they receive appeal to mystery: "God's ways are not our ways". Some answers say God allows evil for a greater purpose. Some say evil is God's punishment. The usual answers fail. They don't support the truth that God loves everyone all the time. God Can't gives a believable answer to why a good and powerful God doesn't prevent evil. Author Thomas Jay Oord says God's love is inherently uncontrolling. God loves everyone and everything, so God can't control anyone or anything. This means God cannot prevent evil singlehandedly. God can't stop evildoers, whether human, animal, organism, or inanimate objects and forces. In God Can't, Oord gives a plausible reason why some are healed, but many others are not. God always works to heal everyone, but sometimes our bodies, organisms, or other creatures do not cooperate with God's healing work. Or the conditions of creation are not right for the healing God wants to do. Some people think God causes or allows suffering to teach us lessons or build our character. God Can't disagrees. Oord says God squeezes good from the evil God didn't want in the first place. God uses pain and suffering without willing or even allowing it. Most people think God can overcome evil singlehandedly. In God Can't, Oord says God needs cooperation for love to reign now and later. This leads to a better view of the afterlife called "relentless love." It rejects traditional ideas of heaven, hell, and annihilation. Relentless love holds to the possibility all creatures and all creation will respond to God's love. God Can't is written in

understandable language. As a world-renown theologian, Thomas Jay Oord brings credibility to the book's radical ideas. He explains these ideas through true stories, illustrations, and scripture. *God Can't* is for those who want answers to tragedy, abuse, and other evils that make sense! *What They're Saying...* "If conventional notions of God make less and less sense to you, you'll find Thomas Jay Oord's new book a breath of fresh air. Simply put, "God Can't" presents an understanding of God that thoughtful, ethical people can believe in." -- Brian D. McLaren, author of *The Great Spiritual Migration* "I did not want this book to end. I wish Dr. Oord had written it 100 years ago, or 1000 years ago... To find your understanding of life and your love for God renewed, read this book." -- Dr. Karen Strand Winslow, Ph.D., Biblical and Jewish Studies Professor of Bible, Azusa Pacific University "As a clinical psychologist working with people in trauma, I owe Thomas Jay Oord an enormous debt of gratitude for recasting the so-called problem of evil in terms that are conceptually satisfying, theologically consistent, and pastorally liberating." -- Dr Roger Bretherton- Principal Lecturer at the University of Lincoln (UK), Chair of the British Association of Christians in Psychology "Victims of trauma sometimes hear theological responses that imply their suffering is somehow "God's will." A more careful theological reflection on the nature of the power of a God who is love can help. Oord gives us a clear and compelling alternative in this profoundly insightful and admirably concrete and accessible book." -- Dr. Anna Case-Winters, Professor of Theology at McCormick Theological Seminary "I know of no book that speaks to suffering with the depth of theological sophistication and psychological sensitivity as *God Can't*. This book is a rare combination of depth and accessibility, truly written for the wounded. I recommend it to my students, parishioners, and therapy clients." -- Dr. Brad D. Strawn, Professor of the Integration of Psychology and Theology, Fuller Theological Seminary

Logical Philosophy: A Compendium brings together five works by Avi Sion published in 2002-06, namely:

Phenomenology (2003), *Volition and Allied Causal Concepts* (2004), *Meditations* (2006), *Ruminations* (2005), and *Buddhist Illogic* (2002). These works together define what may be termed 'Logical Philosophy', i.e. philosophical discourse distinguished by its steadfast reliance on inductive and deductive logic to resolve epistemological and ontological issues.

A FORTIORI LOGIC: INNOVATIONS, HISTORY AND ASSESSMENTS, by Avi Sion, is a wide-ranging and in-depth study of a fortiori reasoning, comprising a great many new theoretical insights into such argument, a history of its use and discussion from antiquity to the present day, and critical analyses of the main attempts at its elucidation. Its purpose is nothing less than to lay the foundations for a new branch of logic, and greatly develop it; and thus to once and for all dispel the many fallacious ideas circulating regarding the nature of a fortiori reasoning.

If God is all-knowing and all-powerful, can he in any way be vulnerable to his creation? Can God be in control of anything at all if he is not

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constantly in control of everything? John Sanders says yes to both of these questions. In *The God Who Risks*, he mounts a careful and challenging argument for positive answers to both of these profound theological questions. In this thoroughly revised edition, Sanders clarifies his position and responds to his critics. His book will not only contribute to serious ongoing theological discussion but will enlighten pastors and laypersons who struggle with questions about suffering, evil and human free will.

New Directions in Rhetoric and Religion reflects the complex and fluid natures of religion, rhetoric, and public life in our globalized, digital, and politically polarized world by bringing together a diverse group of rhetorical scholars to provide a comprehensive and forward-looking collection on rhetoric and religion. This volume addresses these topics in three separate sections: 1. Rhetorics of religion at work in public activism, 2. Rhetorics of religion in contemporary public discourse, and 3. Ways that rhetoric scholars study religion. Scholars of rhetoric, religion, and social sciences will find this book particularly interesting.

Suppose you could ask God any question and get an answer. What would it be? Young people all over the world have been asking those questions. So Neale Donald Walsch, author of the internationally bestselling *Conversations with God* series had another conversation. *Conversations with God for Teens* is a simple, clear, straight-to-the-point dialogue that answers teens questions about God, money, sex, love, and more. *Conversations with God for Teens* reads like a rap session at a church youth group, where teenagers discuss everything they ever wanted to know about life but were too afraid to ask God. Walsch acts as the verbal conduit, showing teenagers how easy it is to converse with the divine. When Claudia, age 16, from Perth, Australia, asks, "Why can't I just have sex with everybody? What's the big deal?", the answer God offers her is: "Nothing you do will ever be okay with everybody. 'Everybody' is a large word. The real question is can you have sex and have it be okay with you?" There's no doubt that the casual question-and-answer format will help make God feel welcoming and accessible to teens. *Conversations with God for Teens* is the perfect gift purchase for parents, grandparents, and anyone else who wants to provide accessible spiritual content for the teen(s) in their lives.

How "God" Works A Logical Inquiry on Faith Sterling Ethos

God's simplicity and perfection shapes both God's distinctive relation to creation and how theologians properly acknowledge this distinctiveness in thought.

A physicist uses science and philosophy to answer the ancient, unsolvable question: why does the universe exist?

Science has revolutionized our lives and continues to show inexorable progress today. It may seem obvious that this must be because its theories are steadily getting better and approaching the truth about the world. After all, what could science be progressing toward, if not the truth? But scholarship in the history, philosophy, and sociology of science offers little support for such a sanguine view. Those opposed to specific conclusions of the scientific community—nonbelievers in vaccinations, climate change, and evolution, for example—have been able to use a superficial understanding of the nature of science to sow doubt about the scientific consensus in those areas, leaving the general public confused as to whom to trust, with damaging effects for the health of individuals and the planet. The Great Paradox of Science argues that to better counter such anti-science efforts requires us to understand the nature of scientific knowledge at a much deeper level and dispel many myths and misconceptions. It is the use of scientific logic, the characteristics of which are elaborated on in the book, that enables the scientific community to arrive at reliable consensus judgments in which the public can retain a high degree of confidence. This scientific logic is applicable not just in science but can be used in all areas of life. Scientists, policymakers, and members of the general public will not only better understand why science works: They will also acquire the tools they need to make sound, rational decisions in all areas of their lives.

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For half a century, J. I. Packer's classic has helped Christians around the world discover the wonder, the glory, and the joy of knowing God. Now featured in the IVP Signature Collection, this thought-provoking work seeks to renew and enrich our understanding of God, bringing together knowing about God and knowing God through a close relationship with Jesus Christ.

Can we say God is all-controlling if evil is genuine and randomness is real? If God is capable of controlling any situation or person and is both willing and able to stop evil from occurring, how do we make sense of the cruel and unpredictable realities of life? Should we say that suffering is necessary to build character? Are random events of death and destruction really "acts of God"? Some say that God is the cause of everything, which commits them to the view that nothing is truly random and every act of evil is part of God's master plan. Others say that God is an impersonal force or a distant observer and so not truly involved in worldly events but this comes at the price of a God who is personally involved in our lives and to whom we can pray. Still others say that God is sovereign but we cannot know how, because God is a mystery. This leaves us without an answer to our questions. Thomas Jay Oord argues that we need a new understanding of providence, one that can account for a world of both awful evil and awe-inspiring goodness. *The Uncontrolling Love of God* provides a clear and powerful response to one of the perennial challenges to Christian faith."

Does God truly love all persons? Most Christians think the obvious answer to this question is, "Yes, of course he does!" Indeed, many Christians would agree that the very heart of the gospel is that God so loved the whole world that he gave his Son to make salvation available for every single person. This book shows that one of the most popular and resurgent theological movements in the contemporary evangelical church--namely, Calvinism--cannot coherently and consistently affirm this vital claim about the love of God. While some Calvinists forthrightly deny that God loves everyone, more commonly Calvinists attempt to affirm the love of God for all persons in terms that are compatible with their doctrines that Christ died only for the elect--those persons God has unconditionally chosen to save. This book shows that the Calvinist attempts to affirm God's love for all persons are fraught with severe philosophical and theological difficulties. Calvinism, then, should be rejected in favor of a theology that can forthrightly and consistently affirm the love of God for all persons. Nothing less is at stake than the very heart of the gospel.

This hugely popular international bestseller is being repackaged and rebranded as the leading title in the C.S. Lewis Signature Classics range. One of the most popular and beloved introductions to the concept of faith ever written, *Mere Christianity* has sold millions of copies worldwide. The timeless questions of spirituality which Lewis raises will have resonance with a new generation of readers. *Mere Christianity* brings together Lewis's legendary broadcast talks of the war years, talks in which he set out simply to 'explain and defend the belief that has been common to nearly all Christians at all times.' Rejecting the boundaries that divide Christianity's many denominations, C.S. Lewis provides an unequalled opportunity for believers and nonbelievers alike to hear a powerful, rational case for the Christian faith. This scintillating collection confirms C.S. Lewis's reputation as one of the leading writers and thinkers of our age.

With cutting-edge research and provocative case studies, renowned behavioral neurologist provides insights to some of the most curious spiritual questions of mortality. For fans of *When Breath Becomes Air* and the work of Oliver Sacks.

Uses a scientific approach to answer the question of whether God exists, and examines the thinking processes and techniques that help inform a person's faith.

John Calvin's perspectives on the nature, calling, and destiny of the human being is scattered all over his extensive corpus of writings. This book attempts to provide an accurate account of the main theological motifs that governed Calvin's doctrine on the human being, while

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keeping in mind variable factors such as the historical development of Calvin's thought, the pastoral and often unsystematic orientation of his theology, and the formative impact doctrinal controversies had on his thoughts. The contribution focuses specifically on Calvin's understanding of the created structure of the human being, her sinful nature, the human being's union with Christ, the limits of human reason, the anthropological roots of human society and gender. The primary aim is to make the original Calvin speak. But the contribution also addresses some of the most recent debates on Calvin's theology and identifies those impulses in his theological anthropology that bear potential for modern reflections on human existence. Like most of us, Calvin was a child of his time. However, his intellectual legacy endures and readers may well find his thoughts on the human being surprisingly refreshing and stimulating for modern anthropological and social discourses.

Over the past half century, there has been a proliferation of scholarship on the great American theologian Jonathan Edwards. However, the vast majority of this output confines itself to the details of his work. With some welcome exceptions, the forest has often been missed for the trees. In this ground breaking study William Schweitzer presents a new reading of Edwards: He starts with the question what is distinctive in Edwards' theology? The answer comes in Edwards' insight into Trinitarian life. God is eternally communicative of his knowledge, love, and joy among the Three Persons of the Trinity, and this divine communicativeness was for Edwards the explanation for why God created the universe. More specifically, however, Edwards believed that God's communication carries with it the Trinitarian hallmark of "harmony.†? This hallmark is not always easy to discern, even for the regenerate. Edwards' lifelong project—as demonstrated by the common purpose of all three unfinished "Great Works†?—was to interpret the harmony found in and among the several media of revelation.

Does God exist? The question implies another: Who is God? This book is meant to give an answer to both questions and to give reasons for this answer. Does God exist? Yes or no? Many are at a loss between belief and unbelief; they are undecided, skeptical. They are doubtful about their belief, but they are also doubtful about their doubting. There are still others who are proud of their doubting. Yet there remains a longing for certainty. Certainty? Whether Christians or Jews, believers in God or atheists, the discussion today runs right across old denominations and new ideologies—but the longing for certainty is unquenched. Does God exist? We are putting all our cards on the table here. The answer will be "Yes, God exists," As human beings in the twentieth century, we certainly can reasonably believe in God—even more so in the Christian God—and perhaps even more easily today than a few decades or centuries ago. For, after so many crises, it is surprising how much has been clarified and how many difficulties in regard to belief in God have melted into the Light that no darkness has overcome. "Uniformity with God's Will" by Alphonsus Liguori (translated by Thomas Tobin). Published by Good Press. Good Press publishes a wide range of titles that encompasses every genre. From well-known classics & literary fiction and non-fiction to forgotten?or yet undiscovered gems?of world literature, we issue the books that need to be read. Each Good Press edition has been meticulously edited and formatted to boost readability for all e-readers and devices. Our goal is to produce eBooks that are user-friendly and accessible to everyone in a high-quality digital format.

Is There a God? offers a powerful response to modern doubts about the existence of God. It may seem today that the answers to all fundamental questions lie in the province of science, and that the scientific advances of the twentieth century leave little room for God. Cosmologists have rolled back their theories to the moment of the Big Bang, the discovery of DNA reveals the key to life, the theory of evolution explains the development of life... and with each new discovery or development, it seems that we are closer to a complete understanding of how things are. For many people, this gives strength to the belief that God is not needed to explain the universe; that

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religious belief is not based on reason; and that the existence of God is, intellectually, a lost cause. Richard Swinburne, one of the most distinguished philosophers of religion of our day, argues that on the contrary, science provides good grounds for belief in God. Why is there a universe at all? Why is there any life on Earth? How is it that discoverable scientific laws operate in the universe? Professor Swinburne uses the methods of scientific reasoning to argue that the best answers to these questions are given by the existence of God. The picture of the universe that science gives us is completed by God. This new, updated edition of Richard Swinburne's popular introductory book *Is There a God?* features two substantial changes. He presents a new, stronger argument why theism does and materialism does not provide a very simple ultimate explanation of the world. And he examines the idea of the possible existence of many other universes, and its relevance to his arguments from the fine-tuning of our universe to the existence of God.

A guide to the inside workings of common machines and devices takes readers deep inside such items as car engines, computers, microwave ovens, and firecrackers.

Jesus Christ alone answers our deepest questions. We all have doubts that challenge our faith. We wonder whether the Bible still matters, or whether God is truly as loving and personal as we hope. In his first ever devotional, *The Logic of God*, apologist Ravi Zacharias offers 52 readings that explain how and why Christianity, the Bible, and God are still relevant, vital, and life-changing for us today. To all our dilemmas Ravi says, "I am convinced that Jesus Christ alone uniquely answers the deepest questions of our hearts and minds." With a remarkable grasp of biblical facts and a deep understanding of the questions that trouble our hearts, Ravi tackles the most difficult topics with ease and understanding. But *The Logic of God* is more than intellectual; it is also personal, offering thoughtful wisdom on: when Jesus draws especially near you. the deep ray of hope found in God's Word. how God transforms disappointments. why prayer matters. how genuine peace is possible. making sense of suffering. Ravi makes profound biblical truth easy to understand. And if your life is busy, this book is designed for you! It addresses 52 topics that you can read over the course of one year or slowly digest at your own pace. Each entry includes a Scripture, questions for reflection, and some practical application steps. When you're struggling with questions and doubts, confused, curious, or just want a clearer way to express your faith *The Logic of God* has answers that satisfy the heart and the mind.

Using yet untapped resources from moral and political philosophy, this book seeks to answer the question of whether an all good God who is presumed to be all powerful is logically compatible with the degree and amount of moral and natural evil that exists in our world. It is widely held by theists and atheists alike that it may be logically impossible for an all good, all powerful God to create a world with moral agents like ourselves that does not also have at least some moral evil in it. James P. Sterba focuses on the further question of whether God is logically compatible with the degree and amount of moral and natural evil that exists in our world. The negative answer he provides marks a new stage in the age-old debate about God's existence.

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Have you gone to religion for answers but ended up more confused? Have you tried to believe in God, but ended up disappointed because he didn't show up as they'd described? There are too many unanswered questions about God, and it makes religion look like a wild goose chase. Religion presents God as a magician, and when God fails to appear as presented and we demand answers, it expects us to accept that God works in mysterious ways, and besides, "How dare you question God?" "The Hidden Truth About God," say, "We are not questioning God, but what was presented to us." This book carefully analyzes and logically weighs theology and reality. It gives a step-by-step breakdown of God's plan for Creation and uses real-life experiences to provide rational answers to unanswered questions about God. And why life is full of pains and suffering when God could snap his fingers and everything becomes perfect, yet he doesn't. Thomas, a computer scientist and teacher of religion together with Grace, a professor of religion and philosophy, reveals life as a program and God as a programmer. They brilliantly decipher codes to find the bridge between the supernatural and the natural, deity and humanity, God and reality, presenting answers to some very interesting questions: What's the truth about heaven? How did sin get into heaven? Why doesn't God take away evil? What happens in the supernatural? Is religion the way to God? What about reincarnation? Why can't a perfect God have a perfect world? Is there God, or does the universe run itself? What's the big deal about Christianity? Why are there so many contradictions in the Bible? Do you value reason? Are you a skeptic, or a critical thinker? Are you a believer in the universe? Are you atheist, theist, or just searching for answers to the countless questions of the universe? This book will provide you with answers using reason and real-life experiences as it draws resources from Religious books, theology, philosophy, science, and reality. The Law of relativity states that everything is neutral when seen in isolation and only reflects in our reality when we ascribe meaning to it. Therefore, we can give meaning to God and life, or not, but Thomas and Grace's inclusion to this law is that the truth remains true irrespective of relativity. What then is the truth? If you think atheists have reason, evidence, and science on their side, think again! Award-winning author Dr. Frank Turek (I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist) will show you how atheists steal reason, evidence, science, and other arguments from God in trying to make their case for atheism. If that sounds contradictory, it's because it is! Atheists can't make their case without appealing to realities only theism can explain. In an engaging and memorable way, *Stealing from God* exposes these intellectual crimes atheists are committing and then provides four powerful reasons for why Christianity is true.

Herman Philipse puts forward a powerful new critique of belief in God. He examines the strategies that have been used for the philosophical defence of religious belief, and by careful reasoning casts doubt on the legitimacy of relying on faith instead of evidence, and on probabilistic arguments for the existence of God.

Throughout history, arguments for and against the existence of God have been largely confined to philosophy and theology, while science has sat on the sidelines. Despite the fact that science has revolutionized every aspect of human life and greatly clarified our understanding of the world, somehow the notion has arisen that it has nothing to say about the possibility of a supreme being, which much of humanity worships as the source of all reality. This book contends that, if God exists, some evidence for this existence should be detectable by scientific means, especially considering the central role that God is alleged to play in the operation of the universe and the lives of humans. Treating the traditional God concept, as conventionally presented in the Judeo-Christian and Islamic traditions, like any other scientific hypothesis, physicist Stenger examines all of the claims made for God's existence. He considers the latest Intelligent Design arguments as evidence of God's influence in biology. He looks at human behavior for evidence of immaterial souls and the possible effects of prayer. He discusses the findings of physics and astronomy in weighing the suggestions that the universe is the work of a creator and that humans are God's special creation. After evaluating all the scientific evidence, Stenger concludes that beyond a reasonable doubt the universe and life appear exactly as we might expect if there were no God. This paperback edition of the New York Times bestselling hardcover edition contains a new foreword by Christopher Hitchens and a postscript by the author in which he responds to reviewers' criticisms of the original edition.

"Strugglebook: A Logical Search for the Truth of GOD" explores the probability for the existence of God based primarily on the logic derived from science. While it addresses issues applicable to theology, it is not a theological work. There are literally hundreds of books on this subject, most detailing a standard set of arguments. This book follows that pattern for the first part but then extends itself into a series of coalescing arguments built on the latest science, all of which results in a unique presentation on the subject. Forming a conclusion respecting the reality of God on something as cold as logic is contrary to approaches generally considered acceptable to religious organizations that favor perhaps more ephemeral means based on redemption and faith. Those approaches based on other than logic have proven very successful for many individuals. That notwithstanding, the author is representative of that very large group of people who live in environments replete with corporate missions, budget building and spreadsheets, strength, weakness, opportunity and threat exercises, performance yields, compensation management, management by objective, measuring outcomes, and mini-MBA courses. The resulting objectivity built through vocation, results for many individuals, including the author, in a need to question the rationale behind faith and God. This book is the record of a search for the reality of God consistent with satisfying the needs dictated by the logic often demanded by the modern mind. Do world and personal events result in a questioning of your faith? Do you wonder about a God that could allow 9/11 or the deaths of tens of thousands in a

cyclone? Have you watched as someone you love suffers, and as a result, questioned the very existence of God? Have the truths of modern science served to displace your belief in God? Does your working life consumed with spreadsheets, schedules, logical analysis, objectives, investment returns, getting the job done on time, and all the other appendages of working life impose an atmosphere that works against belief in God? Do you feel unsure about sharing your beliefs with others because you may be ridiculed? Have you been exposed to the views of Richard Dawkins through his book *The God Delusion*, or other well known atheists who attempt seemingly with some success to use science to prove God doesn't exist and in so doing, relegate your beliefs as unworthy? These questions and situations imposed themselves on the author of this book, an educator and computer application designer who decided to take a year out of his life and find the answers. This book chronicles his search for the truth of God. Calling on history and using the very latest scientific knowledge, coupled with related philosophy, and sometimes delivered somewhat irreverently, the book delves into the issues, presenting positive and dissenting views respecting the existence of God and then argues the case from the data presented. The reader shares the full rationale for decisions made.

Evil abounds. And so do the attempts to understand God in the face of such evil.

From the bestselling author of *A History of God* and *The Great Transformation* comes a balanced, nuanced understanding of the role religion plays in human life and the trajectory of faith in modern times. Why has God become incredible? Why is it that atheists and theists alike now think and speak about God in a way that veers so profoundly from the thinking of our ancestors? Moving from the Paleolithic Age to the present, Karen Armstrong details the lengths to which humankind has gone to experience a sacred reality that it called God, Brahman, Nirvana, Allah, or Dao. She examines the diminished impulse toward religion in our own time when a significant number of people either want nothing to do with God or question the efficacy of faith. With her trademark depth of knowledge and profound insight, Armstrong elucidates how the changing world has necessarily altered the importance of religion at both societal and individual levels. And she makes a powerful, convincing argument for structuring a faith that speaks to the needs of our dangerously polarized age.

Drawing on a wealth of new evidence, pioneering research psychologist David DeSteno shows why religious practices and rituals are so beneficial to those who follow them—and to anyone, regardless of their faith (or lack thereof). Scientists are beginning to discover what believers have known for a long time: the rewards that a religious life can provide. For millennia, people have turned to priests, rabbis, imams, shamans, and others to help them deal with issues of grief and loss, birth and death, morality and meaning. In this absorbing work, DeSteno reveals how numerous religious practices from around the world improve emotional and physical well-being. With empathy and rigor, DeSteno chronicles religious rites and traditions from cradle to grave. He explains how the Japanese rituals surrounding childbirth help strengthen parental bonds with children. He describes how the Apache Sunrise Ceremony makes teenage girls better able to face the rigors of womanhood. He shows how Buddhist meditation reduces hostility and increases compassion. He demonstrates how the Jewish practice of sitting shiva comforts the bereaved. And much more. DeSteno details how belief itself enhances physical and mental health. But you don't need to be religious to benefit from the trove of wisdom that religion has to offer. Many items in religion's "toolbox" can help the body and

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mind whether or not one believes. How God Works offers advice on how to incorporate many of these practices to help all of us live more meaningful, successful, and satisfying lives.

“This short book makes you smarter than 99% of the population. . . . The concepts within it will increase your company's ‘organizational intelligence.’ . . . It's more than just a must-read, it's a ‘have-to-read-or-you're-fired’ book”—Geoffrey James, INC.com From the author of the forthcoming An Illustrated Book of Loaded Language, here's the antidote to fuzzy thinking, with furry animals! Have you read (or stumbled into) one too many irrational online debates? Ali Almossawi certainly had, so he wrote An Illustrated Book of Bad Arguments! This handy guide is here to bring the internet age a much-needed dose of old-school logic (really old-school, a la Aristotle). Here are cogent explanations of the straw man fallacy, the slippery slope argument, the ad hominem attack, and other common attempts at reasoning that actually fall short—plus a beautifully drawn menagerie of animals who (adorably) commit every logical faux pas. Rabbit thinks a strange light in the sky must be a UFO because no one can prove otherwise (the appeal to ignorance). And Lion doesn't believe that gas emissions harm the planet because, if that were true, he wouldn't like the result (the argument from consequences). Once you learn to recognize these abuses of reason, they start to crop up everywhere from congressional debate to YouTube comments—which makes this geek-chic book a must for anyone in the habit of holding opinions.

Do you have a real relationship with God, or do you just have a religion? Do you know God, or do you just know about God? In How Big Is Your God? Paul Coutinho, SJ, challenges us to grow stronger and deeper in our faith and in our relationship with God—a God whose love knows no bounds. To help us on our way, Coutinho introduces us to people in various world religions—from Hindu friends to Buddhist teachers to St. Ignatius of Loyola—who have shaped his spiritual life and made possible his deep, personal relationship with God.

The God Delusion caused a sensation when it was published in 2006. Within weeks it became the most hotly debated topic, with Dawkins himself branded as either saint or sinner for presenting his hard-hitting, impassioned rebuttal of religion of all types. His argument could hardly be more topical. While Europe is becoming increasingly secularized, the rise of religious fundamentalism, whether in the Middle East or Middle America, is dramatically and dangerously dividing opinion around the world. In America, and elsewhere, a vigorous dispute between 'intelligent design' and Darwinism is seriously undermining and restricting the teaching of science. In many countries religious dogma from medieval times still serves to abuse basic human rights such as women's and gay rights. And all from a belief in a God whose existence lacks evidence of any kind. Dawkins attacks God in all his forms. He eviscerates the major arguments for religion and demonstrates the supreme improbability of a supreme being. He shows how religion fuels war, foments bigotry and abuses children. The God Delusion is a brilliantly argued, fascinating polemic that will be required reading for anyone interested in this most emotional and important subject.

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