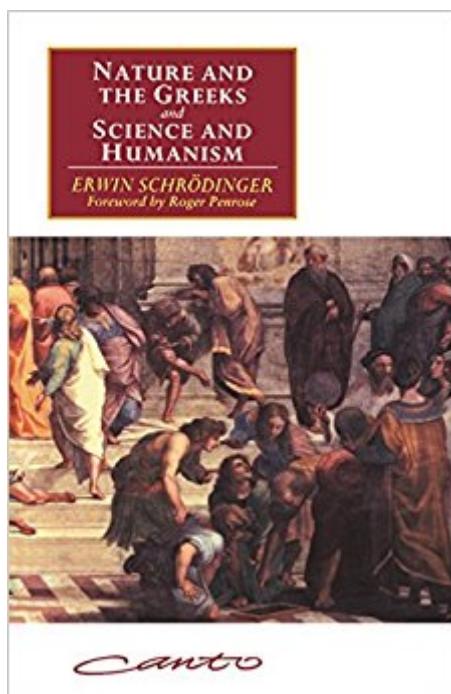


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'Nature And The Greeks' And 'Science And Humanism' (Canto Original Series)



Synopsis

Nobel laureate Erwin Schrödinger was one of the most distinguished scientists of the twentieth century; his lectures on the history and philosophy of science are legendary. 'Nature and the Greeks' and 'Science and Humanism' makes available for the first time in many years the text of two of Schrödinger's most famous lecture series. 'Nature and the Greeks' offers a comprehensive historical account of the twentieth-century scientific world picture, tracing modern science back to the earliest stages of Western philosophic thought. 'Science and Humanism' addresses some of the most fundamental questions of the century: what is the value of scientific research? and how do the achievements of modern science affect the relationship between material and spiritual matters? A foreword by Roger Penrose sets the lectures in a contemporary context, and affirms they are as relevant today as when they were first published.

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Customer Reviews

Erwin Schrodinger was a major contributor to the development of quantum physics. He, Werner Heisenberg, and many other giants of modern scientific thought, were very conscious of their enormous intellectual debt to Greek philosophy. Shrodinger's lectures on Greek ideas about Reason and the Senses, Pythagoras, Heraclitus, the Atomists, and much more besides, is a wonderful historic account that enables contemporary readers to understand and appreciate the forgotten grounding of science within philosophy.

An excellent piece to read to get a notion of where the core of our understanding of our universe was first put into writing (as far as records show) and that is the ancient Greek culture. The second part of this book deals with "scientism", the notion that reductive science is omnipotent and can answer ALL questions of the human condition -and Shroedinger effectively puts this notion to rest as absurd. This can be read by anyone but having a background in the "hard" sciences is of advantage. Highly recommended.

Erwin Schroedinger was one of the most landmark physicists of the 20th century. If you have ever used a microwave oven, GPS, a CD / DVD player, computer or cell phone, then you can thank Schroedinger, Heisenberg, von Neumann, Turing and so many others. That these are not household names is a sad reflection on the state of our educational system (thank you anti-science Right Wingers!). The current book offers two essays written by Schroedinger. The 1st is on the enormous debt that modern day scientists owe to the ancient Greeks. Way back then, philosophers and physicists were one-in-the-same. Naturally, Schroedinger pays homage to one of the 1st atomists, Democritus. In fact, it was Democritus who coined the term atom (literally, the Greek word means "unsplittable"). Coincidentally, in a more recent book, Leon Lederman sings the praises of Democritus in *The God Particle: If the Universe Is the Answer, What Is the Question?* and shows the nexus between his system of thought and that of experimental physicists in the present age. While it is something of an encomium on the Greeks, Schroedinger also discusses possible disadvantages of being indoctrinated into the scientific paradigm as devised by the pre-Socratics. In the second essay, Schroedinger lists his thoughts on the haunting fear of a deterministic universe that so many philosophers of science have feared for the past few centuries. Is free will just an illusion? Or do we have control over our own fates? Do independent spheres of science have any intrinsic value if they are not used towards a more comprehensive view of nature? This is the introspective study that the great scientist engages in. This book is a must-have for all fans of the Austrian physicist. For those who are curious about his life & times I would recommend the

biography Å Schrödinger: Life and Thought.

Lucid, informed, and stimulating

good buy will use again

It would be cumbersome to detail the rich path which this book has led me through after reading it (in Spanish) more than 15 years ago. The author attributes an almost ethical imperative to understanding the Greek comprehension of nature as intrinsically intelligible, thus, placing nature within the scope of predictability and out of the monopoly of divine whim. This unique approach he rightfully, acknowledges to have originated exclusively and for the first time among the Greeks. A superb little book, great to wake up young inquisitive (divergent-thinking) minds to the awe and enjoyment hidden in every nook and cranny of the intellect.

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