



The Dancing Universe: From Creation Myths to the Big Bang

Marcelo Gleiser

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In this provocative work, a brilliant young physicist argues that science and religion, far from warring disciplines, may both offer valid, even complimentary, explanations for the origins of the universe. Marcelo Gleiser begins by providing a broad, highly accessible outline of philosophical and scientific ideas about the universe through the last twenty-five centuries, from the ancient universal creation myths to contemporary theories on an ever-expanding universe. He also explores the lives and work of history's greatest scientists, including Copernicus, Galileo, Newton, Einstein, and Stephen Hawking. By exploring how scientists have unlocked the secrets of gravity, electromagnetism, time, and space, Gleiser offers fresh perspective on the debate between science and faith.

Marcelo Gleiser writes as a scientist who believes in more than just one approach to life's most enduring questions and views science as an endless process of discovery of the world both around us, and within.

The Dancing Universe: From Creation Myths to the Big Bang Details

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Felipe Kroll says

Sensacional!!!

Carl says

Along with Kuhn and Peat, a classic in the history-of-science library. Gleiser is a big contributor to the Edge.com website I also admire.

Valerie Carter-cole says

"The Dancing Universe" covers 25 centuries of mythology, spiritually, philosophy, and religion and how they are connected via science. Nothing (or almost nothing) rates up there with such a book...especially at the hand of Professor of Physics, Philosophy and Astronomy Marcelo Gleiser). He cover this huge timrspan

Bruno Cunha says

Um livro com muito conteúdo! Explica sobre a evolução da ciência desde o início, lá da época de Galileu, e alguns filósofos e "cientistas" antes dele, até os dias de hoje, com a teoria do Big Bang. Recomendo para os que gostam do assunto. Quem não gosta de ciência, história e cosmologia, nem toque nesse livro! :)

Weiglas Ribeiro says

Com o objetivo de mostrar como o pensamento científico evoluiu desde os primeiros mitos de criação, o livro mostra como o ser humano sempre teve um fascínio em organizar o mundo a sua volta. O ponto em comum com os mitos de criação e a ciência moderna é a curiosidade que temos em entender o que acontece no mundo, o que diferencia são as abordagens que cada um faz.

Além disso, o livro conta um pouco como várias teorias e descobertas científicas foram feitas, mostrando o lado mais humano do cientista, ao contrário da imagem estereotipada do cientista louco desumanizado.

Revela como muitos desses cientistas tinha inspirações religiosas para descobrir a mente de Deus, e como essas inspirações levaram ao caminho de suas descobertas.

Enfim, um livro ótimo, mesmo sendo sobre astronomia e cosmologia, não tem uma conta sequer, possibilitando que mesmo os "numerofóbicos" tenham uma boa leitura e quem sabe uma atração pela física e matemática.

Vinicius says

It is a very book in popular science. A little bit too shallow, nevertheless a good starter in thw wonders of the cosmos

Charles Franklin says

I got this book from the library because I was interested in the title. No cosmology book that I had ever read before mentioned creation myths and the "Big Bang" in the same sentence. The book was a wonderful journey through humanity's attempts to explore and understand the complicated reality around them. It demonstrates (convincingly in my view) that the great rift between "science" and "religion" is not the fixed boundary that it is often portrayed to be.

Galileo and Newton were deeply spiritual, but also deeply believed that science should focus on verifiable knowledge. (I learned a lot more about Galileo in this book, especially the fact that the Catholic Church wasn't completely hostile to his views. In fact, they were open to the evidence but skeptical of the implications. Galileo, on the other hand, wanted the Church to accept his view and would rather doggedly hold onto that view with little accommodation. He was right, but the battle lines between Western science and faith were being drawn.

I also love the insight gained about Einstein and his pursuit of the mysterious.

Of particular absence though, in the book, are references to many non-Western influences on Western science (most notably Arabic, African, and Asian scientists and philosophers). This isn't necessarily a bad thing (the author is drawing on what he knows), but more attention needs to be brought to all cultures that contributed to the modern thing we call "science".

Read this is you want a science book that provides a deeper view of the life, faith, and times of some of the most celebrated scientists of our time.

Paula Savioli says

Wonderful introduction to physics and astronomy for those not in the area. Although he starts the book with the intention to show religious motivation in scientists thirst for answers, in my opinion the emphasis on religious aspects was fewer than it should or could have been. Even though, the book is very interesting for it brings (as far as possible) detailed information about cosmological studies, with good explanations for those who were not so good in physics at school. The final arguments about the role of science and religion in the speculation about the origin of the universe was, in my opinion, pretty reasonable.

Gui says

marcelo gleiser sempre surpreendendo numa linguagem inteligente e direta. toma essa stephen hawking!

Haymone Neto says

Introdução razoável às teorias cosmogônicas.

Ahmad Sharabiani says

A Dança do Universo = The Dancing Universe: From Creation Myths to the Big Bang, Marcelo Gleiser
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