



Midwest Book Review

God 4.0: On the Nature of Higher Consciousness and the Experience Called God is recommended for psychology and spirituality collections alike, and considers the intersection between the two as it probes different notions of 'God' and higher consciousness.

Intrinsic to this discussion are reflections on the nature of personal reality and perception. These demonstrate how ideas of transcendence and belief have, in modern times, moved to re-evaluating the connections between science and spirituality.

God 4.0 is the third and last book in Ornstein's trilogy. It can be read first, or readers may wish to take the full journey by starting with *The Psychology of Consciousness*, his groundbreaking classic study introducing the two modes of consciousness of the left and right hemispheres of the brain. The second book in the trilogy, *The Evolution of Consciousness* provides a critical understanding of how the brain evolved. The three books together provide a fundamental reconsideration of ancient religious and spiritual traditions in the light of advances in brain science and psychology, exploring the potential and relevance of this knowledge to contemporary needs and to our shared future.

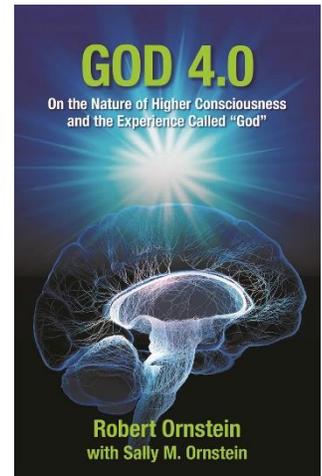
New scientific findings across a range of disciplines contribute answers to sociological puzzles about how the concept of and search for transcendence has affected humankind. Even more importantly, they lay a foundation of scientific inquiry for *God 4.0* which endeavors to explain and explore the shift in consciousness which many call "seeing God."

Ornstein strives for a "unified theory" that links scientific and spiritual disciplines to create a new structure with which to view this process of transcendence and discovery. His goal is to foster new avenues of thought from these modern revelations—ones that lend to a "new spiritual literacy."

As chapters reveal this history, readers are treated to a discourse that considers not just science and religion, but life's purpose.

As with many scholarly presentations, *God 4.0* is heavily footnoted with supporting studies and reference materials. Unlike most academic research, however, the lively tone of historical, social, scientific, and religious inspection is quite accessible to lay readers as Ornstein points out fallacies and truths in thinking, through the ages: *"It must be acknowledged that the doctrines of all of the Abrahamic religions — Judaism, Christianity and Islam — hold that there was one Creation, in which God "created" everything. But these dicta were produced a millennium or more before the last 600 years of science and have not been revised. They were never intended to be taken literally."*

This quote illustrates an important prerequisite for the complete enjoyment of *God 4.0*. Readers should be flexible in their belief systems, whether they stem from religious or scientific



foundations, and should be willing to reconsider long-held assumptions about religious truths and what constitutes reality.

Those with such an attribute, who look for a science-based overview of history, principles, tools, and processes of thought and belief, will find *God 4.0* not just worthy reading, but a study which ideally lends to discussion group debates and consideration.

Religion, science, psychology, and historical collections will find this study of social rules and laws both ancient and modern to be revealing and unique.

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