



Madness, Mystery and the Survival of God

Isabel Clarke

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The conventional scientific world view cannot accommodate God. Yet, the world wide resurgence of religion, particularly in its most fundamentalist forms, flies in the face of science. Our seemingly secular society cannot tear itself away from fascination with the supernatural. Alongside the attraction of drugs, this reveals a yearning for something beyond.

This book offers a new way into the paradox. The feared experience of madness becomes the key to the human ability to operate in two ways

at once. Science studies one side of an individual but is blind to our potential to participate in a reality beyond that which we can precisely know - the territory of religion.

Isabel Clarke is a psychological therapist, who works with people diagnosed with psychosis and other severe mental health problems. Familiarity with their experience, together with a knowledge of the spiritual literature and of research into the processing capacity of the brain, led to her central conclusion: that psychosis and spiritual experience both inhabit that other reality - a reality that is integral and vital for all humans.

This new perspective on faith and psychosis offers insight into the unshakable conviction of both delusion and religious fanaticism. The survival of faith and superstition in a secular age is explained. God is located within the scientific world view in a way that respects mystery and so enlarges rather than diminishes our vision.

Absolutely first class! It came into the can't put it down category so I have read it cover to cover. **Ian Mowl**, Co-ordinator of *GreenSpirit*

I have thoroughly enjoyed reading this. It is groundbreaking territory, fascinating, good, topical and relevant. **Janice Hartley**, Secretary of The Spiritual Crisis Network Development Group

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