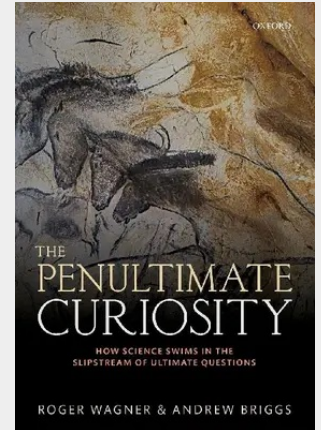


Penultimate Curiosity

How Science Swims in the Slipstream of Ultimate Questions

When young children first begin to ask 'why?' they embark on a journey with no final destination. The need to make sense of the world as a whole is an ultimate curiosity that lies at the root of all human religions. It has, in many cultures, shaped and motivated a more down to earth scientific interest in the physical world, which could therefore be described as penultimate curiosity. These two manifestations of curiosity have a history of connection that goes back deep into the human past. Tracing that history all the way from cave painting to quantum physics, this book (a collaboration between a painter and a physical scientist that uses illustrations throughout the narrative) sets out to explain the nature of the long entanglement between religion and science: the ultimate and the penultimate curiosity.

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70,80 €

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Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9780198839286

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-0-19-883928-6

Verlag: OXFORD UNIV PR

Erscheinungstermin: 15.06.2019

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 2019

Produktform: Kartoniert

Gewicht: 848 g

Seiten: 496

Format (B x H): 170 x 244 mm

