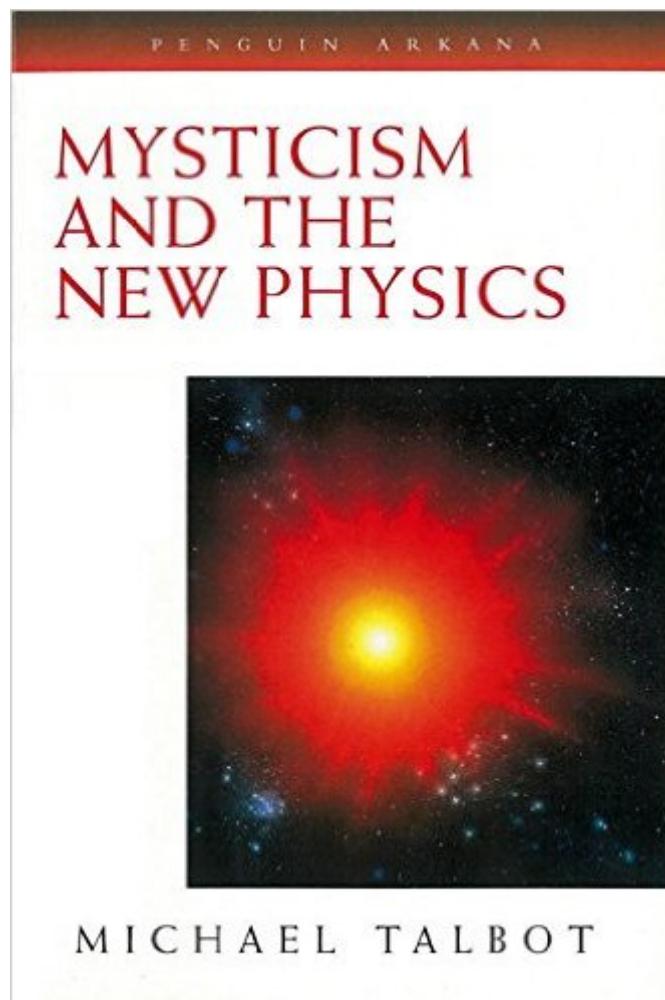


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Mysticism And The New Physics (Compass)



Synopsis

Mystics and idealist have always propounded the idea that the world is an illusion. Now quantum physics is putting forward theories that reinforce this belief.

Book Information

Series: Compass

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books; Rev Upd Su edition (August 3, 1993)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140193286

ISBN-13: 978-0140193282

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.5 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (29 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

My first plunge into the world of quantum physics and its religious ramifications started with the book, "God and the New Physics" by Paul Davies. Although I was thoroughly ensnared by the theoretical implications of the "new physics", I was underwhelmed with his treatment of the "God" factor. On the other hand, Micheal Talbot's book, "Mysticism and the New Physics" (which sounds eerily similar to Davies') puts the spiritual factor on overdrive while relegating science to the backseat. This prequel to "The Holographic Universe" pales in comparison to it: In the latter, it is obvious the author has had a chance to fine-tune his theories, flesh out the explanations, add newer material, and in the process, render this book as mere "reading fodder" for Talbot fans. The book starts off with a cursory explanation of quantum physics (The Uncertainty Principle, Wave-Particle duality, etc.). It then proceeds to elaborate upon the popular paradox known as "Schrodinger's Cat", an analogy that was drawn to highlight the inexplicable behavior of quantum systems that go into superposition before "collapsing" into one of the many possibilities in the very presence of an observer. Whether it is Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle or Schrodinger's Cat, both theories seem to imply that there is no such thing as a truly "objective" non-interfering observer: Moreover, there

can only be a "participator" who influences the environment he/she "observes" through the act of consciousness. The author goes on to define human consciousness as a quantum system, albeit holographic, that is capable, like all other such systems (for example, subatomic particles), of emitting electromagnetic "fields" that may interact with other such fields.

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