



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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Start by marking "Madness, Mystery and the Survival of God" as Want to Read: Want to Read saving list | Want to Read. The survival of faith and superstition in a secular age is explained in this work. Get A Copy. Amazon. Why does God survive, flourish even, in our secular age? This book recognizes that religion and science, two different ways of making sense of the world, are indeed irreconcilable. It does not seek to fit either one into the world view of the other. Instead it argues that we need to embrace this incompatibility, and recognize that this mystery stems from essential facts about the psychological make up of the human being. The book draws on two sources of data to advance its argument; the findings of cognitive science about the limitations and characteristics of the way in which our brains are wired up, and experience; experience documented by revered mystics of the past, and experience of people of our time who have ventured into the borderland between mysticism and madness. But Clarke makes a good argument that the relationship is very close indeed: spirituality and creativity result from what might be seen as successful forays into, or opening up to, the "transliminal," while "madness" results from getting lost in it or overwhelmed by it. As for what the "transliminal" is, she sees it as just the way the world looks when we view it in a way dominated by one of our two primary "cognitive subsystems." Normally, we draw from both the propositional subsystem - that dominated by either/or logic - and from the implicational subsystem, which uses a "both/and" logic, and is more involved in affect, association, and the "unconscious." Normally, we synchronize the operation of both these two subsystems in a way that leaves us not even aware there are two different systems. Madness, Mystery, and the Survival of God. Isabel Clarke. The Voices Within: The History and Science of How We Talk to Ourselves. Charles Fernyhough. Flourish: A New Understanding of Happiness and Wellbeing and How to Achieve Them. There is a need for phenomenological descriptions of these experiences and the ways in which they differ from culturally defined psychopathological states. In this semi-structured interview study, eight congregants attending an evangelical church in London were asked to describe their experiences of God communicating with them. Communications from God were related to current events rather than to the prediction of future events.