

The Wonder of the World

Reviews and Endorsements

Varghese explores the basic and critical questions we face concerning this remarkable and wonderful universe. Why are we here? Where are we going? This is no doctrinaire treatise, but a sensitive, profound and clear discussion of the important issues of our universe and our existence, including questions, answers, and uncertainties. It is written with a deep understanding of philosophy, spirituality, and the complex science involved, yet expressed in a way which is interesting and very understandable to the non-specialist.

— CHARLES H. TOWNES

Nobel Prize winner and inventor of the laser

Though I found myself arguing with both protagonists, the issues raised and Guru's lucid outline of modern science's framework of understanding, helped me to challenge and refine my own answers to the ultimate questions that each one of us must ask.

— ARNO PENZIAS

Nobel Prize winner; discovered Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation establishing the Big Bang theory

The Wonder of the World is an epoch-making and breathtaking treatise. Among Indian thinkers Varghese is much inspired by the great theistic philosopher Sri Madhvacharya. I have learnt a great deal from this giant work.

— BNK SHARMA

Leading authority on the great Indian thinker Madhvacharya and author of 23 books on Eastern thought

Congratulations on a fascinating book! I found *The Wonder of the World* to be a highly illuminating and thought-provoking discussion of all the important issues on the borderline between science and religion.

— ROBERT JASTROW

Founder of NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies, Director of the Mount Wilson Observatory and author of God and the Astronomers

You have in your book deployed abundant evidence indicating that it is likely to be a very long time before such naturalistic [atheistic] explanations [for the origin of life and reproduction] are developed, if indeed there ever could be. . . I intend to reread *The Wonder of the World* at leisure. I was hugely impressed and substantially challenged by it.

— ANTONY FLEW

The world's best-known atheist and a critic of theism for more than 50 years

Varghese. . . skillfully leads us through a scientific and philosophical description of our magnificent universe. Experiencing the wonder of our world is the surest path to realizing that a purely materialist answer to that question is both scientifically and philosophically inadequate.

— GERALD SCHROEDER

Israeli scientist and author of The Hidden Face of God: How Science Reveals the Ultimate Truth

The integrated humanistic vision evolved in this unique book is harmonious with the vision of global spirituality that emerges from the vision of the Vedas, especially as interpreted by Madhvacharya and, later, by Maharshi Dayanand, the founder of the Arya Samaj.

— SWAMI AGNIVESH

Indian religious and social leader

**“A HIGHLY ILLUMINATING AND
THOUGHT-PROVOKING DISCUSSION
OF ALL THE IMPORTANT ISSUES
ON THE BORDERLINE BETWEEN
SCIENCE AND RELIGION.”**

— Robert Jastrow

If one could only bring back the sense of enchantment of the natural world in our time in a society dominated by the scientism which is a product of modern science! I think that your book is a remarkable achievement for which I want to congratulate you. I hope that it will have a wide readership.

— DR. SEYYED HOSSEIN NASR

Former Professor of the History of Science and Philosophy, Tehran University, Iran

*Visiting Professor at Harvard University
University Professor of Islamic Studies at The George Washington University*

Best-known Islamic scholar on the relationship of science and religion and author of numerous books in this area including Science and Civilization in Islam.

Outstanding! Excellent! Roy Varghese has outdone himself yet again. This book delves into the “dialogue” between the mind of God and modern science; and issues like spiritualist and materialist monism, Tao-of-Physics thinking, atheism, and relativism, and on and on. Varghese

does a masterful job of defending theism and a dualistic view of the universe. He argues that the origins of life, mind, and reproduction are inexplicable without the direct creative acts of God: "It is simply incoherent to assert that a universe of pure matter, with no purpose, no intellect, no consciousness, no will whatsoever, can give rise to conscious, thinking, willing agents." His insights into Hinduism, Buddhism, and Taoism are extremely important. Undoubtedly the best book I have ever read on the subject as a whole. *The Wonder of the World* is a must read for anyone interested in the most important journey the mind can make!

— TERRY L. MIETHE

Ph.D., Ph.D., D.Phil. (Cand. Oxon.)

Internationally known philosopher and theologian and author of 21 books including Does God Exist? A Believer and Atheist Debate

Roy Abraham Varghese's *The Wonder of the World* is what the subtitle proclaims: A Journey from Modern Science to the Mind of God.

Varghese has been making this journey for a good number of years, pursuing in book after book the data and arguments that lend credence for, or offer obstacles to, belief in a vision of the world as the creation of an infinitely intelligent mind. Varghese maintains, with considerable plausibility, that the greatest thinkers of the four major world religions, Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, jointly and severally crafted the metaphysical matrix that underlies modern science. This infrastructure, this matrix, is a meta-scientific Theory of Everything that enables scientific Theories of Everything.

Yet, Varghese does not dwell unduly on these thinkers. The reader encounters not only Avicenna, Maimonides, Aquinas, and Madhvacharya, but a good number of contemporary contributors to science in physics, chemistry, biology, and computer science. In some respects, Varghese's *Wonder* bears favorable comparison with Stanley Jaki's Gifford Lectures, *The Road of Science and the Ways to God*. While lighter on the history of Western Science than Jaki's *Road*, Varghese's *Wonder* contains more detail on the current situation in science, and it has the added advantage of being much better informed about Eastern thought. It would be difficult to find a comparable investigation accessible to a general audience.

Setting out the pros and cons in dialogue form, Varghese manages to keep the argument moving briskly along in language any educated, attentive reader can follow. It would be hard to find anything in contemporary literature quite like this lucid, wide-ranging exploration of the central issues.

— THOMAS D. SULLIVAN

Aquinas professor of philosophy and theology, University of St. Thomas St. Paul, Minnesota

"IT IS SIMPLY INCOHERENT TO ASSERT THAT A UNIVERSE OF PURE MATTER, WITH NO PURPOSE, NO INTELLECT, NO CONSCIOUSNESS, NO WILL WHATSOEVER, CAN GIVE RISE TO CONSCIOUS, THINKING, WILLING AGENTS."

— *Terry L. Miethe*

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By Roy Abraham Varghese

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