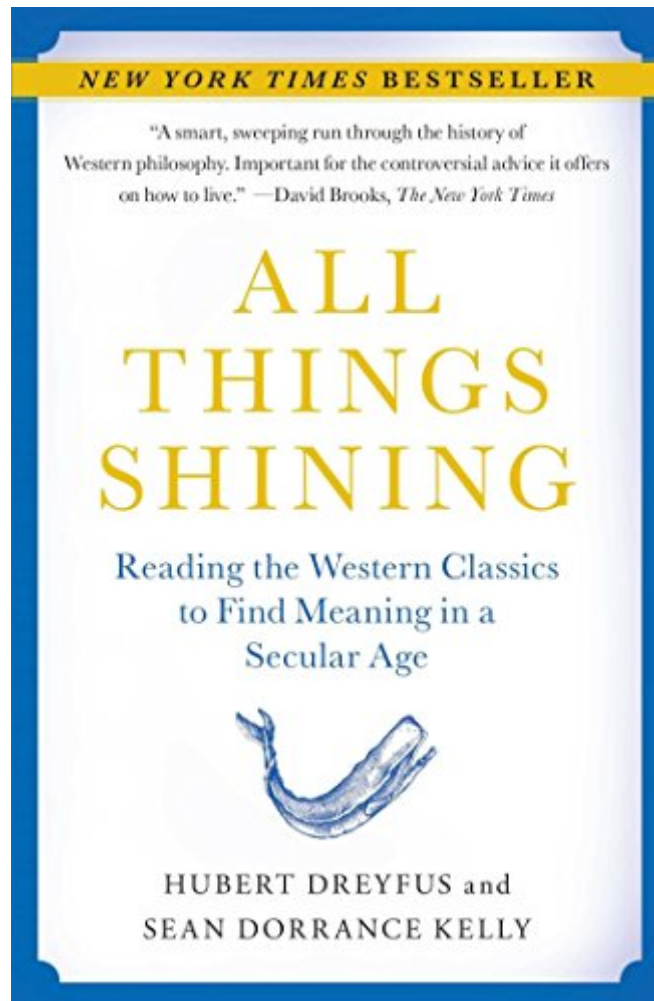


The book was found

All Things Shining: Reading The Western Classics To Find Meaning In A Secular Age



Synopsis

In unrelenting flow of choices confronts us at nearly every moment of our lives, and yet our culture offers us no clear way to choose. This predicament seems inevitable, but in fact it's quite new. In medieval Europe, God's calling was a grounding force. In ancient Greece, a whole pantheon of shining gods stood ready to draw an appropriate action out of you. Like an athlete in the zone, you were called to a harmonious attunement with the world, so absorbed in it that you couldn't make a wrong choice. If our culture no longer takes for granted a belief in God, can we nevertheless get in touch with the Homeric moods of wonder and gratitude, and be guided by the meanings they reveal? *All Things Shining* says we can. Hubert Dreyfus and Sean Dorrance Kelly illuminate some of the greatest works of the West to reveal how we have lost our passionate engagement with and responsiveness to the world. Their journey takes us from the wonder and openness of Homer's polytheism to the monotheism of Dante; from the autonomy of Kant to the multiple worlds of Melville; and, finally, to the spiritual difficulties evoked by modern authors such as David Foster Wallace and Elizabeth Gilbert. Dreyfus, a philosopher at the University of California, Berkeley, for forty years, is an original thinker who finds in the classic texts of our culture a new relevance for people's everyday lives. His lively, thought-provoking lectures have earned him a podcast audience that often reaches the iTunesU Top 40. Kelly, chair of the philosophy department at Harvard University, is an eloquent new voice whose sensitivity to the sadness of the culture and to what remains of the wonder and gratitude that could chase it away captures a generation adrift. Re-envisioning modern spiritual life through their examination of literature, philosophy, and religious testimony, Dreyfus and Kelly unearth ancient sources of meaning, and teach us how to rediscover the sacred, shining things that surround us every day. This book will change the way we understand our culture, our history, our sacred practices, and ourselves. It offers a new and very old way to celebrate and be grateful for our existence in the modern world.

Book Information

File Size: 1778 KB

Print Length: 274 pages

Publisher: Free Press (January 4, 2011)

Publication Date: January 4, 2011

Sold by: Simon and Schuster Digital Sales Inc

Language: English

ASIN: B003UYURT2

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #96,579 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #12 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Books & Reading > History of Books #41 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Movements #48 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Religious Studies & Reference > History

Customer Reviews

If you cannot imagine enjoying, or even finding wise counsel, in a book recommending a return to something like polytheism, you are not alone. I have difficulty enough contending with the lingering specter of monotheism: one god, or, more precisely, the loss of any sense of one God, is heartache enough. But something about King Menelaus's admiration for his wife Helen has always intrigued me. At a feast in honor of Telemachus, Odysseus's son, Menelaus listens with rapt appreciation as his wife, Helen, the very Helen of Troy, recounts her passionate embrace of Paris, and her flight to Troy; she left Menelaus and their young child for this most famous of affairs. A decade-long war was fought to get her back. Now she is sitting beside Menelaus later in life recounting those days devoted to her passion? And he sits by admiring? I've read the Odyssey many times, and I have always stubbed my toe on this scene. Shouldn't Menelaus react in rage? And why no shame from Helen? The two of them seem to exult in the memory of this costly betrayal. I have shaken my head at this passage, regarding it as a bizarre prelude to the main event, Odysseus's struggle to return home. *All Things Shining: Reading the Western Classics to Find Meaning in a Secular Age*, by Hubert Dreyfus and Sean Dorrance Kelly, opened my eyes. I was using the wrong standard to evaluate Helen's conduct: she swooned for Paris not as an act of betrayal to Menelaus, but because she had responded to Aphrodite's mood, eros. Paris shone, in her eyes, and those eyes were not beclouded with wayward lust, a Christian gloss. She responded to something stirring within and accessible to all, if they would but listen: even in our time we celebrate the sweetest passion.

"All Things Shining" is a book written by two philosophers, for a general audience. While there is textual analysis and criticism, it is in service of a goal that the authors feel should have very broad appeal in our secular and nihilistic age: "The world used to be in its various forms, a world of sacred,

shining things. The shining things now seem far away. This book is intended to bring them close once more. [. . .] Anyone who wants to lure back the shining things, to uncover the wonder we were once capable of experiencing, and to reveal a world that sometimes calls forth such a mood; anyone who is done with indecision and waiting, with expressionlessness and lostness and sadness and angst, and who is ready for whatever it is that comes next; anyone with hope instead of despair, or anyone with despair that they would like to leave behind, can find something worthwhile in the pages ahead. Or at least that is what we intend. The authors goal, in short, is to clear a path by which people can lure back the "merry May-day gods of old"--the sacred shining things--in order that they may thereby lead intense and meaningful lives, as the ancient Greeks once did. However, they are not interested in trying to recover anything supernatural; they are not, for example, interested in bringing back belief in a literally existing, supernatural Greek Goddess named "Aphrodite". They are instead interested in something that might be called a mood, or an attunement, that opens one to the world, and to a sacred dimension that once may have been understood as, and represented by a god or goddess: the erotic dimension and that which attunes one to it, being that which was once called "Aphrodite"; the aggressive, war-like dimension "Ares"; and so on.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

All Things Shining: Reading the Western Classics to Find Meaning in a Secular Age
Grace Without God: The Search for Meaning, Purpose, and Belonging in a Secular Age
All Creatures Great and Small, All Things Bright and Beautiful, and All Things Wise and Wonderful: Three James Herriot Classics
Stephen King Series Reading Order: Series List - In Order: The Dark Tower series, Shining series, Talisman series, The Green Mile series, stand-alone novels, ... (Listastik Series Reading Order Book 30)
Rabbinic Stories (Classics of Western Spirituality) (Classics of Western Spirituality (Paperback))
Speed Reading: 7 Simple and Effective Speed Reading Techniques That Will Significantly Reduce Your Reading Time (Speed Reading Techniques, Read Faster, ... Focus, Memory Recall, Improve Productivity)
Speed Reading: Seven Speed Reading Tactics To Read Faster, Improve Memory And Increase Profits (Speed Reading Techniques, Read Faster, Speed Reading For Professionals, Entrepreneurs)
Cruising the Southern and Western Caribbean: A Guide to the Ships & the Ports of Call (Cruising the Southern and Western Caribbean) (Cruising the Southern & Western Caribbean)
LADIES OF ROMANCE: SERIES READING ORDERS & BOOK CHECKLISTS: VOLUME #1: THIS READING ORDER CHECKLIST INCLUDES ALL THE STANDALONE & SERIES OF EACH OF THE ... ROMANCE READING ORDERS & CHECKLISTS)
The Shining (BFI Film Classics)
How (Not) to Be Secular: Reading Charles Taylor
Religious Difference in a Secular Age: A Minority Report
A Secular Age
ESP8266: Programming NodeMCU

Using Arduino IDE - Get Started With ESP8266: (Internet Of Things, IOT, Projects In Internet Of Things, Internet Of Things for Beginners, NodeMCU Programming, ESP8266) LINDA HOWARD: SERIES READING ORDER & CHECKLIST.: SERIES LISTINGS INCLUDE: SPENCER-NYLE CO, RESCUES, MACKENZIE'S, PATTERSON-CANNON, WESTERN LADIES & MUCH ... Authors Reading Order & Checklists Book 27) Speed Reading: The Comprehensive Guide To Speed Reading - Increase Your Reading Speed By 300% In Less Than 24 Hours Reading Log: Gifts for Book Lovers / Reading Journal [Softback * Large (8" x 10") * Antique Books * 100 Spacious Record Pages & More...] (Reading Logs & Journals) Palmistry: The Complete Guide To Palm Reading And Fortune Telling For Beginners - Learn How To Read Palms Like A Pro In No Time! (Numerology, Palm Reading, Hand Reading) Interactive Word Find: Easter (Word Find For Kindle) How To Find Free Kindle Books: Find free books for Kindle with this resource of over 65 current sites dedicated to free ebooks!

[Dmca](#)