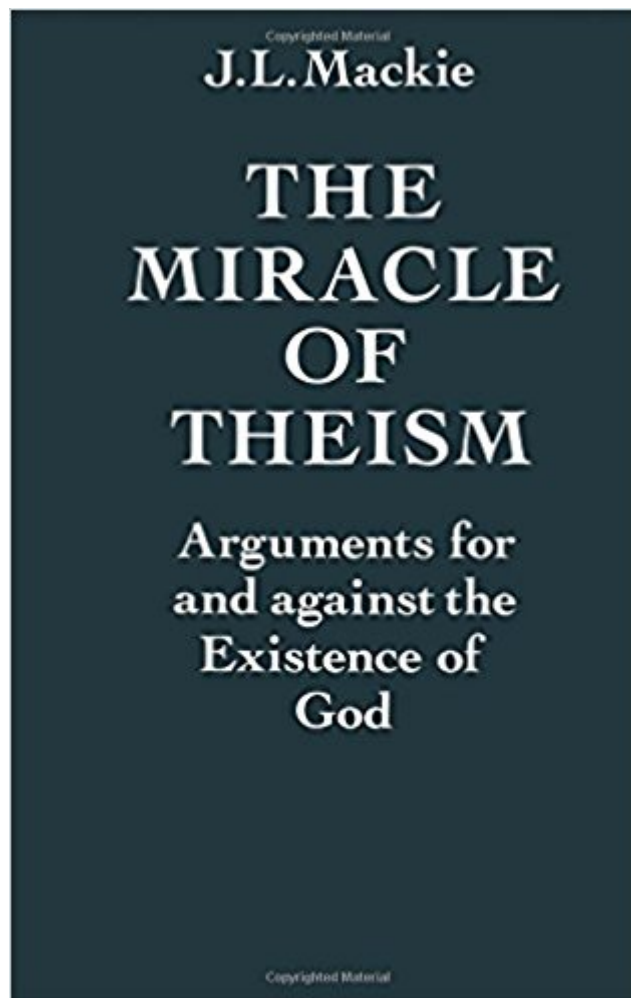




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The Miracle Of Theism: Arguments For And Against The Existence Of God



Synopsis

A Miracle of Theism

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Customer Reviews

J. L. Mackie is at University College, Oxford.

Mackie is a superstar in the field of philosophy of religion. If you're an atheist and your exposure to atheist literature is limited to Dawkins, Harris, Hitchens, Dennett, and the rest of the modern atheist movement, you're missing out. Drawing heavily on Hume's concept of "extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence", Mackie's "Miracle of Theism" is the most sophisticated argument against theism in history.

This book is by far my favorite among the throngs of books vying for your attention in the god debate. I found Mackie's writing style a bit dull and slow at times - but it was usually accessible to me as a layman. I think he did a tremendous job in taking ideas/arguments from key philosophers and distilling them in to a form that I can handle. This alone - regardless of your tendencies - makes the book worth reading. It is a shame that it costs so much - because it really is worth sharing. Mackie engages the substance of arguments, unlike many contemporary authors on this topic. He carefully evaluates and considers alternatives. I believe this approach is sadly unique among authors from both sides of the issue. I highly recommend this book.

This is truly a well-written piece of work. It addresses the classical theistic arguments in depth, and with some effort even a lay person can follow them. As an atheist, I have read many critiques of the cosmological, ontological, teleological, moral and argument from evil; however, they appear superficial in light of reading an entire chapter on the ontological argument alone. This volume examines critically various forms of each argument, from classical to modern treatments of each. On a topic so momentous as whether God exists or not, if you are truly going to decide it using reason, you should find this book a welcome addition to your library.

Mackie argues compellingly against traditional theism here. What I loved most, though, was the accessibility of his writing and his fairness and graciousness to the side of theism. He fully and carefully considers arguments in favor of theism before eloquently and soundly dismantling them. His arguments are fairly easy to follow (though someone without a philosophy background might find some difficulty given the nature of the content), logically rigorous and thorough. This is exceptional, first-rate philosophy. Atheists are foolish, and theists are cowardly, who do not read this work.

O.K. I've been battling between just how much does GOD actually intervene in our lives. We see and hear about miracles all the time. So I ask myself, how come a little girl (this is true) gets killed by a tire that comes off a truck and slams into her and kills her. Yet, other people claim they had a near death experience and was TOLD they were not to die. Really? This precious little 8 year old work was apparently done? This is why I wanted to read this book. Well, unless you have a Doctorate in Theology, forget it, I am well read, have bachelors degrees and found the dialogue to be obscure and obtuse in the most liturgical way. In other words, I just couldn't read it. I would rather have a root canal than to read this Ivory Tower book, sorry J.L.M.

The Australian philosopher John Mackie, sadly now deceased, has always been one of my favorite philosophers, and when I heard from several religious people that this was in their view the best critique of religion, I decided to buy it at once. The book is indeed highly rewarding of its praise, for it is the most thorough philosophical (here as opposed to scientific) critique of all (mono)theist apologetics written so far. Unlike such recent anti-theist writers as Dawkins and Dennett, Mackie is extraordinarily charitable to the theists' claims, making sure to mention every possible argument in

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