



Book Summary

GEOFF CROCKER

An Enlightened Philosophy: Can An Atheist Believe Anything?

The new book by Geoff Crocker, *An Enlightened Philosophy*, contributes to the ongoing “God debate” between such writers as Richard Dawkins and Daniel Dennett, and their respondents Simon Blackburn, Terry Eagleton, Karen Armstrong and others.

Crocker traces enlightenment thought and its impact on religious belief, analyzing how and why belief has been eroded in recent times, and critiquing the role of church in 21st century society as to the specific interpretation of religion it offers. He recognizes the need that society has for a meta-narrative that can enhance social values, a narrative that has classically been provided by myth.

From this analytic, Crocker proposes a creative synthesis rather than a confrontation between contemporary atheism and religion. This synthesis is built around an acknowledgement of the metaphysical dimension in contemporary philosophy and a focus on myth as the interpretation of the religious text. *An Enlightened Philosophy* presents an inspiring new paradigm.

The extensive bibliography in the book, his scholarly approach, and Crocker’s involvement with churches, conferences, authors and prominent thinkers, worldwide, shows that his work has developed as much from classic philosophy and religion, as from the current whirl of God vs. atheism discussion.

Coupling a long-established career as an industrial strategist with international conference presentations on issues of faith and values, Crocker offers a fresh interpretation of religion as strong myth that creates personal and social values. He argues that contemporary atheism, while a valid hypothesis, destroys personal and social values without offering an alternative.

In the book, he traces the development of philosophy to an atheist position, arguing that metaphysical concepts are essential to human life and are an aspect of faith. He suggests a reinterpretation of the religious texts as myth, offering a range of examples on themes of justice, love, the market, the role of the state, fear, resurrection and sibling rivalry.

An Enlightened Philosophy appeals to secularists who seek a believable interpretation of faith, and to Christians craving greater, more relevant understanding of their beliefs. Church leaders are also vitally interested in this new paradigm of religion as myth.

This is an exciting book, breaking new ground and infusing the stale confrontation of atheism and religion with a new vision.

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