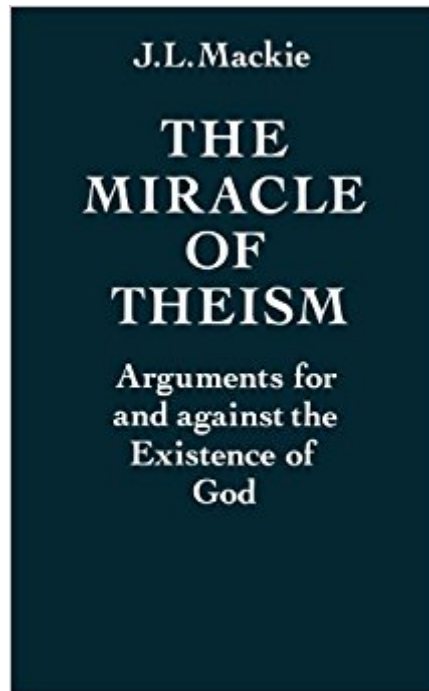


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The Miracle Of Theism: Arguments For And Against The Existence Of God



Synopsis

A Miracle of Theism

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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 their favor and using only counter-arguments that could not possibly be considered controversial or contingent on a given scientific theory, etc. In fact, he is much more charitable in some places than is really necessary; I would not have the same patience with the meaningless phrasings of Swinburne or Kierkegaard that Mackie has. In any case, Mackie diligently and cordially addresses each of the main issues surrounding theist apologetics: miracles, the ontological argument, the cosmological arguments (including Kalam), moral arguments, the issue of consciousness, free will, the argument from design, the argument from faith alone (Kierkegaard), the argument from popularity (William James), the problem of evil, the possibility of atheist morality, and so on. Mackie shows himself at his best here - an impressive array of arguments and decisive counterarguments, even against such modern superstars of apologetics like William Lane Craig and Alvin Plantinga, are dealt with in sequence with seemingly no effort at all.

This is one of the most admirable literature of philosophy of religion that J.L. Mackie has contributed before his death at 1981. Fortunately, it was published posthumously in 1982 for future readers to examine Mackie's critique against Theism. What makes this critical book so impressive and excellent is Mackie's astute, comprehensive, and sophisticated critiques, along with his fair-minded attempts to understand the Theistic arguments, against theistic arguments; Mackie's analysis on the strengths of theistic arguments shows that he is capable of being intellectually fair-minded and practices the principle of charity, but his critique on the weaknesses of those arguments also demonstrates his impressive ability to pinpoint the vital weaknesses in those arguments with deadly precision and insight that could make anyone doubt those robust arguments for theism. What obviously attracts me to this book was the simple fact that Mackie's rigorous and analytical critique against Theism is in contrast unquestionably superior to any arguments made by other atheists such as the New Atheists. While the New Atheist will simply ridicule theism, Mackie takes Theism so seriously that he uses the most of his intellectual resources to show why Theism is such an ironically miraculous claim. Instead of wasting your time reading "God Delusion", "Letters to the Christian Nation", "God is not great", or any of that new Atheist nonsense that is only good for simple-minded Atheists who want an easy argument against obviously horrible formulated arguments for Theism, it is a MUST to read this book to find yourself reading critiques against the more robust (or more interesting or eccentric) arguments for the existence of God made by Plantinga, Swineburne, and others.

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