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Customer Review

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★★★★★ **A Quantum of Reason,**
July 8, 2009

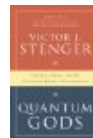
By [Brent Meeker](#)

Vic Stenger has a no-nonsense insiders view of science. In this book he brings his expertise to bear on mysticism and obfuscation that has accumulated around the strangeness of quantum mechanics. He shows that while quantum mechanics may be counter-intuitive it doesn't support TV pitchmen like Depak Chopra or let you create your own reality as suggested by the film "What the #@%& Do We Know?" He draws some interesting philosophical conclusions about the God of a quantum universe must be like. I found it an entertaining and informative read.

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Review Details

Item



[Quantum Gods: Creation, Chaos, and the Search for Cosmic Consciousness](#)

★★★★☆ (10 customer reviews)

5 star: (5)
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Reviewer



[Brent Meeker](#)
REAL NAME™

Location: Camarillo, CA USA

New Reviewer Rank: 640,671
Classic Reviewer Rank: 209,813
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[Wojciech Langer](#) says:

I just wonder what is "informative" in this book: lecture about QM or beating about Chopra and the movie? What is Stenger mission here? Neither Chopra does attacks science (or at least I am not aware of it) nor the movie. Let people believe if they want. As for learning, there are tens of books about QM for those who want to do it easy way without being exposed to certain "agendas", just to mention Frank Wilczek or Richard Feynman (both Nobel Prize recipients). Stenger simply "stenks".

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Your post, in reply to [an earlier post](#) on Jul 10, 2009 8:55 AM PDT
Last edited by you on Jul 10, 2009 8:58 AM PDT

[Julio C. S. Barros](#) says:

Langer, let me introduce to you this "Brent Meeker" boy... He is a physicist. He worked for the Navy (retired, now). He is one of the "Golden Boys" (members of Stenger's internet forum, avoid-L). He is a skeptic activist. He knows an enormous amount of physics and, contrary to Stenger, he is very good indeed at talking about it and at explaining it to

laymen (I wish Stenger would use him as a ghost writer... Stenger's readers would immensely benefit). He seems to know much more about all the topics covered in this book than Stenger does. So this makes it pretty bizarre for Meeker to label this book as "informative" (for him)... This "book review" from him is just a questionable "friend's help" in boosting the selling of this new old book by Stenger. The fact that Meeker gives to it five stars is just scandalous, for he knows pretty well that my criticism to this book is technically and factually correct.

As a "spicy" addendum to Meeker's Curriculum, he... owes me 50 bucks :-): Questioning the integrity of Dean Radin's reports in Radin's book "The Conscious Universe," Meeker asked me (i.e. challenged me) to make available to him the data that would back up Radin's assertions regarding Rhine's works at the beginning of the twentieth century. I spent 50 dollars to have access to the book by Rhine that Radin used as a basis for his assertions, and I further went page after page converting the book to *text pdf format* (and I was very ill then, with flu). Lastly, I made it available to... Brent Meeker (and his peers at avoid-L, including Victor Stenger!). Can you imagine what Brent Meeker did with the data, now available to him? He just did not read it at all! (a few months afterwards, he claimed it would be hard to go over it since it was in *image pdf format*. Had he at least downloaded and opened the file, he would have seen it WAS NOT image format, but TEXT FORMAT instead). All he had to do was to look up at some few pages (less than ten!) and make some easy statistical calculations (easy for him who is highly skilled in it). But imagine if he had done it and discovered that Dean Radin had performed the calculations correctly...

All I can say is that never in my whole ten years of internet wanderings have I ever witnessed a moment so ridiculous as this one. And that is what these "five stars" to Stenger are made of. They are either made of ignorance (by unwary honest readers), or they are made of flawed honesty (to put it mildly).

You can check out a moment of debate between Meeker and me at the link below:
http://www.criticandokardec.com.br/03_avoidl_busting.pdf

Related to this debate above, my rebut to William Jeffreys in the links below:
http://www.criticandokardec.com.br/01_avoidl_busting.pdf
http://www.criticandokardec.com.br/02_avoidl_busting.pdf
http://www.criticandokardec.com.br/04_avoidl_busting.pdf

With the additional page too:
http://www.criticandokardec.com.br/ESP_interocular_traumatic_test.htm

Best Regards to all Honest Readers,
 Julio Siqueira
juliocsiqueira@terra.com.br

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In reply to your post on Jul 10, 2009 11:34 AM PDT

[Wojciech Langer](#) says:

Julio: thanks for the surprising story and shedding some light on Mr. Meeker's review.

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In reply to your post on Jul 28, 2009 11:04 PM PDT

[Brent Meeker](#) says:

I never promised to do any statistical analysis for Mr. Siqueira. I suggested that he obtain the data and do his own analysis if he thought it proved something. He seems to think I owe him something - I don't. I pointed out that various forms of undetected bias in the experiments of J.B. Rhine make statistical analyses such as Radin's suspect. It is characteristic of these psychic experiments that very tiny effects are supposedly detected by very big statistical samples. But very tiny biases produce the same results.

I cannot say that Julio is the only self-congratulatory crank I have run into on the internet, but he is one of the most obnoxious.

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1 of 1 people think this post adds to the discussion. Do you?

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Your post, in reply to [an earlier post](#) on Jul 29, 2009 4:12 AM PDT☑ **Julio C. S. Barros** says:

Oh My! What a rare bird have we got here? Ostriches' heads are hard to come by these days. :-). Hi Brent. Good to see you are in good shape. Since we might have some unwary readers around here, let me show them some piece of writing that seems to bear your signature on it...

It was on a gloomy Saturday night, if my memory serves me well:

[avoid-L message, Saturday, March 31, 2007 5:38 PM]

[Re: Dean Radin: a Sloppy Fraud? Or is "someone else" to blame ?...]

[Julio said]: *My Comment:* this above is what, as far as I could understand, almost shocked me, in light of what Bill Jefferys said (or was it Brent Meeker?). As it turns out, the source for this number used by Radin is just one book! Can I conclude that it is easier for avoid-L skeptics to call someone a liar than to check this one book for the accuracy of what Radin claims? This book by Pratt and Rhine has (I think) less than 500 pages! (/Extra-Sensory Perception after Sixty Years. By J. B. Rhine, J. G. Pratt, C. E. Stuart, B. M. Smith, and J. A. Greenwood, New York, Henry Holt & Co., 1940. Pp. xiv, 463./).

[Brent Meeker Replied]: Interesting that data in a sixty year old book which is supposedly at the foundation of a whole field of research is not available in the public domain. Why don't you just buy the book and tell the list exactly what these results are that Radin says imply odds of 10^{21} or 10^{2000} ?

Maybe it was just my Saturday Night Fever. But I must confess that, to this day, I keep seeing, whenever I read the above piece, a phrase saying "Why don't you just buy the book and tell the list exactly".

And to this, Brent now replies: "I never promised to do any statistical analysis for Mr. Siqueira." Could anyone, please, show me where on Earth (or on www) did I say he promised me to make any statistical analysis? See guys what I mean? Brent is arguably one of the best thinkers among Vic Stenger's "peers" (avoid-L member acknowledged at the very beginning of the "Quantum Gods"), and yet he misreads and misreports me after reading a meager two paragraphs (barely) message from me above!

Just some further reflections:

"Self-Congratulatory Crank": Well, I thought you would like the first half of the first paragraph of my message. Wonder why you call me "self congratulatory" (hope we are not entangled...).

"Obnoxious": Thank you for the word. I will use it in my forthcoming book on Victor Stenger and his avoid-L peers: The Quantum Gorilla that Spawned Obnoxious Ostriches. (check out preview on youtube below)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACKVUMioI2w>

Now, let's talk seriously. Tell us what you meant by "A Quantum of Reason." Does it really translate as "The Very Minimal Possible Amount of Reason" ? ;-)

Gosh, Brent, you are superb! That is why you are my best of all the avoid-Lers :-)

Very Best Wishes,

Julio

P.S.: sincerely, hope you are doing fine

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0 of 1 people think this post adds to the discussion.

Your post: Jul 29, 2009 4:22 AM PDT☑ **Julio C. S. Barros** says:

Just a couple of afterthoughts:

Brent, I will be sending you my bank account number, so that you can deposit the 50 bucks. :-)
And, seriously, it would be highly constructive if you could comment on Professor Scharf's full review of Quantum Gods. It is available in the link below:
<http://www.truthabouttm.org/truth/SocietalEffects/Critics-Rebuttals/StengerRebuttaI/index.cfm>

It would be best if you make the comments on the comments section of his review of Quantum Gods here at www.amazon.com. Link below for the second page of it:
http://www.amazon.com/review/R3M4JIIMS9BY14/ref=cm_cd_pg_pg2?ie=UTF8&cdPage=2

I already made a review of it, but, you know, different from you and from Scharf, I am not a physicist. And since Professor Scharf exposes some pseudoscience from Stenger regarding physics, a "second opinion" might be handy for amazon readers (bear in mind that not all amazon readers are obnoxious - God, I loved this word :-))

Julio

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Your post: Aug 1, 2009 5:38 AM PDT

Julio C. S. Barros says:

I want to highlight a most crucial point.

Brent Meeker said above: "I suggested that he (Julio) obtain the data and do his own analysis if he thought it proved something."

Brent is lying. What he said, as I showed, was: "Why don't you just buy the book and tell the list exactly what these results are that Radin says imply odds of 10^{21} or 10^{2000} ?"

Now, could anyone on Earth ever imagine that what he really meant by the phrase above was: "Julio, go buy this book and present the data for US and WE, in turn, will do... *Absolutely Nothing Whatsoever*. We won't even download it and open the pdf file to check whether it is in text format or in picture format."

So, till doomsday, lying will be lying.

Finally, Brent said: "He seems to think I owe him something - I don't."

Sometimes I get a hundred percent serious in my words. And I once explained to Brent that actually he does not owe ME anything, for what I did I did for free with the intention of honestly finding the truth. I did my part. The one Brent owes something is to Himself! And what he owes is his honesty back.

Best.
Julio

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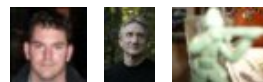


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