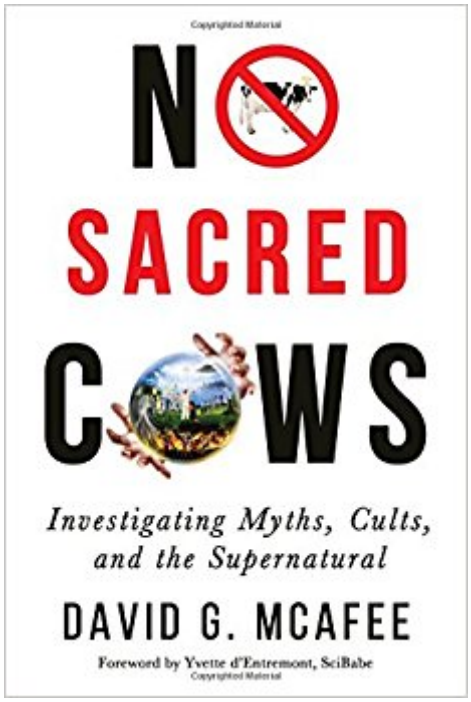
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No Sacred Cows: Investigating Myths, Cults, And The Supernatural



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Synopsis

While belief in religious supernatural claims is waning throughout the West, evidence suggests belief in nonreligious supernatural claims is on the rise. What explains this contradiction? How can a society with a falling belief in God have a rising belief in ghosts, psychic powers, ancient astronauts, and other supernatural or pseudo-scientific phenomena? Taking the same anthropological approach he employed in his notable studies of religion, atheist author and activist David G. McAfee turns his attention to nonreligious faith-based claims. Whether going undercover as a medium, getting tested at Scientology headquarters in Los Angeles, or interviewing celebrity paranormalists and famous skeptics, he leaves no stone unturned in his investigation. As in the case of religion, he finds an unwillingness among "believers" to critically examine their most closely held convictions. Only once individuals honestly assess their own sacred cows will they be able to ensure that their beliefs conform to the known facts—and that our decisions as a society are based on the best available evidence.

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Customer Reviews

"Feel like youÃ¢â ¬â„¢re taking crazy pills? Are you surrounded by a world of dangerous nonsense? DonÃ¢â ¬â„¢t worry! YouÃ¢â ¬â„¢re in luck -- and luck has nothing to do with it. Faster than you can say 'DunningÃ¢â ¬â œKruger effect, David G. McAfeeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s No Sacred Cows gives you the tools to: effectively discuss sacred cows with people, solve your own ghost hauntings, use the real power of fake psychics to fight for truth, think like a scientist, tame the biases

and cognitive dissonance in your own treacherous brain, deal with commonly encountered everyday bullshit like Ã¢â ¬Ëœalternativeã¢â ¬â„¢ medicine, climate denial, and homeopathy, and tackle even more toxic bullshit like anti-vaxers and Scientology, and more. A mustÃ¢â ¬â œread in an age that seriously needs a reality check."Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •David Fitzgerald, author, Nailed and The Complete HereticÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Guide to Western Religion series"David G. McAfee's newest book should be on every skeptic's bookshelf, and on every believer's, too. It is a thorough treatment of a number of topics that inspire undue credulityÃ¢â ¬â •some much more harmful than othersÃ¢â ¬â •but all requiring skepticism. Having interviewed hundreds of authors on these sorts of subjects over the years, and having read all of their books, I enthusiastically recommend No Sacred Cows. It is an important work of skepticism steeped in solid research, open-minded inquiry, and a humane interest in helping believers better understand and accept the world as it really is.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •D.J. Grothe, editor, On the Beauty of Science; director, Institute for Science and Human Values"An informed, impressive, and personal survey of the skeptical field for the layperson and amateur skeptic alike. David G. McAfee has done his research, and it shows.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Benjamin Radford, author, Scientific Paranormal Investigation; Research Fellow, Committee for Skeptical InquiryÃ¢â ¬Å“McAfee's new book is important and deserves to be read widely. It is based on years of research and tackles all sorts of false but common and often dangerous beliefs, superstitions, and fallacies. It teaches us to challenge assumptions, look for evidence and think critically. To be able to do that seems today more important than ever. I recommend this well-written, fascinating book to anyone who feels that sacred cows should have no place in our lives.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Prof. Edzard Ernst,Ã Â Emeritus Professor, Complementary Medicine, Peninsula School of Medicine, University of Exeter; author, A Scientist in Wonderland: A Memoir of Searching for Truth and Finding Trouble; co-author, Trick or Treatment? Alternative Medicine on TrialÃ¢â ¬Å“No Sacred Cows is a fascinating, insightful, and most enjoyable read. McAfeeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s evaluation of his thorough academic research is interwoven with anecdotes of personal experiences and an intriguing variety of interviews. This book should be read widely and discussed often.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Dr. Lynne Kelly, author, The Skeptic's Guide to the Paranormal and The Memory CodeÃ¢â ¬Å“With No Sacred Cows, which provides a bold and fresh look bringing solid research and consistently entertaining prose to the problem of irrational belief, McAfee has entered the strange worlds of true believers and come out alive. This remarkable book is a grand tour of fraud and delusion that everyone should read. Both irrational believers and seasoned skeptics will find much of value here.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Guy P. Harrison, author, Good Thinking and 50 Simple Questions for Every Christian

David G. McAfee is author of Mom, Dad, I'm an Atheist: The Guide to Coming Out as a Nonbeliever, Disproving Christianity and Other Secular Writings, and The Belief Book. He holds a degree in religious studies from the University of CaliforniaÃ¢â ¬â œSanta Barbara and lives in Southern California. Yvette d'Entremont, also known as SciBabe, is a public speaker, science blogger, and former analytical chemist.

There have been many books on skepticism over the years, many of which tend to offer the same ideas from the same general perspective. I can judge if one is offering new ideas by how often I find myself highlighting passages on my Kindle. Only 32% complete and I have already highlighted 52 passages.Unlike other well known skeptics like Dawkins or Sagan, McAfee does not have a degree in science. But using experts in this book he is able to apply what he has learned from them on to new outlook on life. This allows him to debunk claims without necessarily attacking the supernatural itself, unlike Dawkins.The general idea of this book is to encourage the use of the scientific method by laymen in every day life. If that happens then, through a kind of Darwinian selection such ideas as homeopathy, organic food, and psychics will simply fade away.As a teacher there are many ideas I can use in the classroom found here.

An intelligent, well thought out and challenging read from beginning to end. You'll want to highlight and notate pages.I suggest buying a second copy for this purpose, because you won't want to to ruin the first.

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