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FREEDOM ALL THE WAY UP: GOD AND THE MEANING OF LIFE IN A SCIENTIFIC AGE (PAPERBACK)



Friesenpress, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Humanity s deepest questions concern the meaning of life. Freedom All The Way Up proposes four intertwined elements that make up the meaning of life--self-worth, purpose, identity, and hope. For most of Western history, belief in God has permeated each of these, but over the past century-and-a-half the philosophy of Materialism (or Naturalism) has increasingly evicted God from Western thought. Consequently, Materialists claim the universe has no meaning, so there is no larger purposeful story into which we can place ourselves--we are left on our own to construct meaning for our lives. In contrast, Barrigar argues that the universe does have purpose, God s purpose: to provide the space and conditions by which to bring about the existence of agape-capable beings in agape-loving relationships with God and with others. Barrigar weaves together such themes as the multiverse, the second law of thermodynamics, randomness, statistical mechanics, evolutionary biology, neuroscience, and probability theory to show how our universe serves God s agape-loving purposes. In effect, the universe is a great freedom system designed by God with freedom built in all the way up , from the Big Bang to big brains and free will. This freedom system sets up the conditions for a fundamental choice between two types of freedom-autonomous freedom, which focuses principally on self, and agapic freedom, which focuses principally on God and on others. Materialism is predisposed to autonomous freedom, but at the cost of introducing nihilism into each of the elements of meaning. It turns out that nihilism is a much greater problem for Materialism than suffering is for Theism. In contrast, agapic freedom infuses each of these elements--self-worth, purpose, identity, and hope--with God s agape-love, dispelling Materialism s nihilism. The concepts of...

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