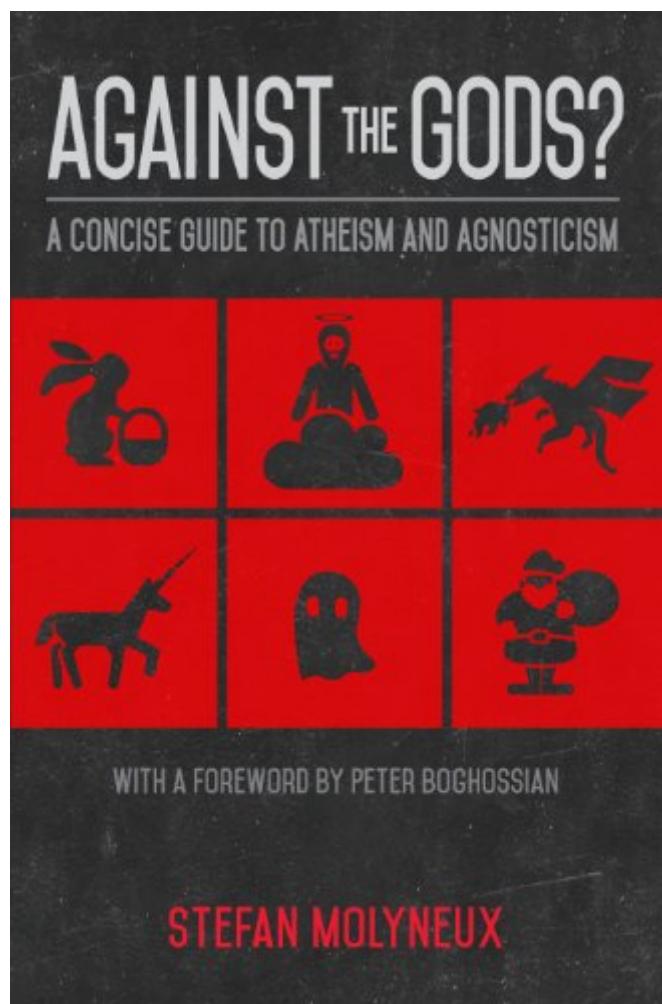


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Against The Gods?: A Concise Guide To Atheism And Agnosticism



Synopsis

Between the poles of strong atheism and strict theism lies agnosticism, the argument that gods are very unlikely, but cannot logically be ruled out as utterly impossible. Agnosticism is considered a cautious, tentative and scientific approach to the question of the existence of gods - Stefan Molyneux's seminal book "Against the Gods?" makes a powerful case against agnosticism and for the positive acceptance of the nonexistence of supernatural beings. It is not rational to even entertain the possibility of the existence of irrational entities. We do not accept agnosticism about unicorns, fairies, square circles, pixies on the proposition that two and two make five - why do we create a special exception in the realm of deities? Surely it is because the social cost of rejecting God's is far higher than the social cost of rejecting goblins. "Against the Gods?" provides essential ammunition to those fighting the virus of faith, and clears the mental fog of the irrational middle ground between atheism and theism. "Against the Gods" is a nail in agnosticism's coffin. Stefan Molyneux is a pallbearer. Once agnosticism can finally and permanently be put to rest, we can turn our attention to an even more pernicious scourge - faith. Molyneux has begun this journey for us by making an extraordinarily contribution to the much-overlooked dangers of agnosticism." - Peter Boghossian

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Customer Reviews

I found this book to be a genuine pleasure to read. He's definitely very original. His destruction of the 'virtue' of god is beautiful. He overstates a lot with very contorted arguments, but I find it quite stimulating to try to figure out where he's off. He really does need some more critical vetting before he publishes. For example, his arguments against agnosticism are heavy handed, and probably based on one or two arguments he's had with some totally obnoxious agnostics. He endlessly debunks the agnostic's "alternative universes" argument by suggesting that an agnostic can't conclude anything about our experience based on the same objection. But the agnostic is asserting an inability to conclude something outside the realm of his experience, not within it. If he had vetted the book with one solid thinker, agnostic or not, he would recognize his folly. And his chiding of Bertrand Russel's orbiting tea pot is just way off and demonstrates an overconfidence in the certainty of his own 'truths'. But as I said, I enjoyed reading it. It made me think.

This is a very limited exploration of agnosticism in which Molyneux makes repeated arguments refuting the possibility of deities operating from alternative dimensions. He is transfixed with the idea that this is the primary circumstance on which agnostics base their beliefs and misses the point of agnosticism entirely, in that it's about not ruling out that which you cannot 100% confirm or deny. Molyneux makes the argument that agnostics are cowards for "fence sitting" in theological debates, however he is unable to recognise that in a debate where parties on both sides make arguments dealing in absolutes which are immeasurable, Agnosticism, and the belief in possibilities until proven one way or the other, is the most sensible and rational approach to the issue. Perhaps humankind is not equipped with the senses to communicate or even perceive the form of a deity? Who would know? The point being, there is a multitude of circumstances in which deities may or may not exist and it is the height of arrogance to argue one way or the other without corresponding, supporting evidence.

In under 100 pages Molyneux has surpassed the most important figures in the atheist movement with the highest clarity and most concise argument ever put forth against the existence of god: the concept itself is a contradiction. While scholars such as Ludwig von Mises have suggested some arguments in the vain going back as far as 1949 (the Praxeological argument that you cannot be

omnipotent--have everything--and act at the same time, because action itself implies the desire to acquire something that you do not have), Molyneux stands as the first philosopher to hold the position vociferously. Not stopping there, Molyneux merges the very best of his investigations into the trauma of childhood and takes his position one step further: he demonstrates the cowardice (while always maintaining compassion for the victims of abuse) of agnostics. This quick read is a must for any young mind thirsty to cut through the fog of a world gone bonkers by the ideas of those who wish to control them. Skip Dawkins. Skip Hitchens. Skip Harris. Read Molyneux.

It was a nice argument to read throughout the book but it was clear that Stefan was hell bent on destroying a few arguments put forward to prove god did exist. It was too narrow and didn't expand as much as I thought it would. If he would have expanded the book more and fought different arguments this book would have gotten a five star.

As with all of Stefan's nonfiction work this is a truly wonderful read or audio book experience. Some things might be uncomfortable to hear depending on where you are in your personal journey toward truth but the logic is always stated and it is always a good idea to question everything. Having gone through all his books and many podcasts I have to say that he is one of the few people I can't find too much to complain about when it comes to thought processing and he has highlighted a few points and developed some brilliant logical solutions I had not thought of. About the only warning I would give is that people who are new to libertarian thought, the concept of the Non-Aggression Principle and general free thinking need to understand that a lot of these concepts are not primer material. Even though logic based on respect for others should not be shocking, the concepts fly in the face of traditional thought in that they don't allow for exemptions to principle or logic and pointing out this hypocrisy can cause instinctive recoil. You'll often hear a free market person joke that the difference between a monarchist and an anarchist is six months because freeing your mind does take time.

There are some excellent points in this little book. However it is very narrowly constructed and not really a guide to atheism. He continually beats on the same point about agnostics treating gods as a special case and by the same logic they reject many things as outright false but they are too cowardly to do the same thing with the existence of gods. He is right but I got it early and it didn't need so much repetition. Regardless it's inexpensive and has some good points. Worth reading. I think it is free on his website.

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