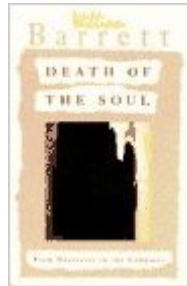




Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

Death Of The Soul



Synopsis

Death of the Soul

Book Information

Paperback: 173 pages

Publisher: Anchor (March 6, 1987)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 038517327X

ISBN-13: 978-0385173278

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.2 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #397,722 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #115 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Biographies > Rhythm & Blues #7322 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature #13622 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy

Customer Reviews

Ever since Descartes saw nature as a vast, interlocking machine and science banished the soul, philosophers have been uncomfortable with this materialistic outlook. Barrett (*Irrational Man* here looks at the way in which various thinkers have attempted to put the human soul or self in the forefront of their visions of reality. He discusses Leibniz's energized universe of monads, or individual souls, Hegel's blueprint for self-realization as part of the unfolding of the "world spirit" and the existentialists' belief that anxiety and death are personal problems each of us must wrestle with. Unconvinced by modern descriptions of the mind as a computer, Barrett debunks Alan Turing's claim that a future computer could write first-rate poetry; he also refutes behaviorism and Wittgenstein. This short book engages the reader in an open-ended dialogue with major Western thinkers on the central questions of the soul, death and consciousness. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Barrett's previous popular work, *Irrational Man*, remains one of the clearest expositions of existentialist philosophy available. In this new book, he focuses on the philosophical puzzles of metaphysics and epistemology. Taking the reader on a historical journey, he discusses the attempts of philosophers to answer one of humanity's central questions: Does the human soul exist? Chapters on Kant are excellent; the concluding chapter, "Analytic Philosophy and the Computer," is

a brilliant summary of Barrett's argument for the existence of "mind" in a world dominated by the doctrines of reductionism and scientific materialism. Highly recommended for beginning students of philosophy and for interested laypeople. Raymond Frey, Philosophy & Religion Dept., Montclair State Coll., Upper Montclair, N.J. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This review won't be as informed as the other ones here...so here it is from a guy who is not a student of philosophy and who just came across this book randomly. For me it was a hard read. It's heavy on philosophic terms and names. It would greatly help to be at least somewhat familiar with the philosophers referred to. If I got the gist right, it's about how leading thinkers have perceived and defined the human condition over the years. If I'm right, the author says that consciousness, 'who are we?', has been, bit by bit, left at the door. Philosophic thought has tended to overlook or under-value the place of the human mind in understanding who we are and what 'this' is. I think he says there is an over-valuing of the minutiae scientific discovery claims to reveal in defining existence. In other words, the soul is dead and we are left with test tubes, rulers and set squares. I could be wrong in my summary. Anyway, for me it was a tough read from page 1 to page 166. I was constantly hoping for him to 'dim it down a shade'...which he did do from time to time. But I needed more of that. I guess this is a serious book for people familiar with philosophy.

I read Barrett's book in late 80's in grad school without much impact but, 25 years later, I think it is profound. Main thesis is denial of 'substance' which Aquinas defines as "that which exists in itself" (a tree). Descartes divided human substance (or a person) into two, mind and body where there is no connection between immaterial mind and material body. Thus, man cannot know the external world with any certainty. The alternative is that human knowledge turns in on itself and ideas are manufactured by the individual human mind and, since each mind has its own ideas without any common substantial object to be known, knowledge is reduced to individual opinions which are totally relative as we witness today. But Barrett says that not only the substance as object of knowledge is denied, but the existence of the human substance or knowing person is effectively denied which means the "Death of the Soul", the denial of the substantial 'self'. He uses Hume, Kant, Heidegger and Sartre to illustrate his point that there is, in modern philosophy, the denial of an ACTUALLY existing person to know or will. He says, using Sartre's own words, that detaching conscious freedom from any existing and limiting human existence would also limit one's freedom, so, freedom 'floats in a void' in Barrett's words. This is the 'desubstantialization' (in Barrett's word) of

modern philosophy where, as a consequence, there are no certitudes, only an unbounded and effectively blind freedom because there is no true human knowledge and no natural limits to man's moral behavior because there is no existing human nature. I have taught philosophy for about 20 years and I would argue Barrett's thesis is correct and the ultimate reason is the denial of the God, the Creator of substances, human and non human, although Barrett does not go that far and might not agree. However, without existing substances and a real reason for their existence, NOTHING is 'real'. I see the results of this in daily moral and political and academic life and the irony is that for the atheistic existentialists, their alleged rebellion against God is a contradiction because they effectively deny substantial existence as a human person with a free will to accept God or reject Him. One of St. Thomas Aquinas' great 20th century commentator's, Fr. Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange O.P., said the ultimate choice is either "God or radical absurdity

"Death of the Soul" is a nice essay on modern philosophy and how it went off track. The book highlights one of the central paradoxes of modern culture: namely, that modern science is one of the glories of the creative human mind and has decisively shaped our civilization, yet modern scientific philosophers deny the power or even the reality of mind, preferring to see humans as agglomerations of sense data or behaviors, and not as free, rational agents. The book was written near the end of the William Barrett's life, and isn't in the same league as "Irrational Man" or "The Illusion of Technique." However, it's very good: the writing is clear, the issues are important, and here and there the observations are profound. For example, I was intrigued by the proposal that Kant's aesthetic appreciation of nature could be used to "fill out" Leibniz' otherwise contentless view of God as necessary being (whatever that means). Read the book and salute Barrett's life.

Truly inspiring

[Download to continue reading...](#)

J. D. Robb CD Collection 9: Creation in Death, Strangers in Death, Salvation in Death (In Death Series) J. D. Robb CD Collection 8: Memory in Death, Born in Death, Innocent in Death (In Death Series) J. D. Robb CD Collection 4: Witness in Death, Judgment in Death, Betrayal in Death (In Death Series) J.D. Robb - Eve Dallas In Death Series updated 2017 in reading order with Summaries and Checklist: Eve Dallas In Death Series listed in best reading order ... Includes Echoes in Death & Secrets in Death The Passover Soul Kit: 101 Soul Tips, Easy Passover Recipes, Pesach Insights, Meditations, Art & Quotes for the Passover Seder and the Passover Haggadah (Holy Sparks Soul Kits) Soul on Soul: The Life and Music of Mary Lou Williams Chicken Soup for

the Breast Cancer Survivor's Soul: Stories to Inspire, Support and Heal (Chicken Soup for the Soul)
Painting for the Soul: Soothe your soul, expand your imagination, and paint your way to colorful,
creative expression The Power of Soul: The Way to Heal, Rejuvenate, Transform and Enlighten All
Life (Soul Power 3) Soul Wisdom: Practical Treasures to Transform Your Life (Soul Power) Chicken
Soup for the Teenage Soul: Stories of Life, Love and Learning (Chicken Soup for the Soul) Chicken
Soup for the Preteen Soul 2: Stories About Facing Challenges, Realizing Dreams and Making a
Difference (Chicken Soup for the Soul) Chicken Soup for the Kid's Soul: 101 Stories of Courage,
Hope and Laughter (Chicken Soup for the Soul) Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul on Tough
Stuff: Stories of Tough Times and Lessons Learned (Chicken Soup for the Soul) Chicken Soup
Teenage Soul Real Deal School (Chicken Soup for the Soul) Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul:
101 Stories of Life, Love and Learning (Chicken Soup for the Soul) Soul by Soul: Life Inside the
Antebellum Slave Market The Best of Soul Food - Recipes To Warm Your Heart & Soul Soul
Comfort for Cat Lovers: Coping Wisdom for Heart and Soul After the Loss of a Beloved Feline
Sweet Potato Soul: 100 Easy Vegan Recipes for the Southern Flavors of Smoke, Sugar, Spice, and
Soul

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)