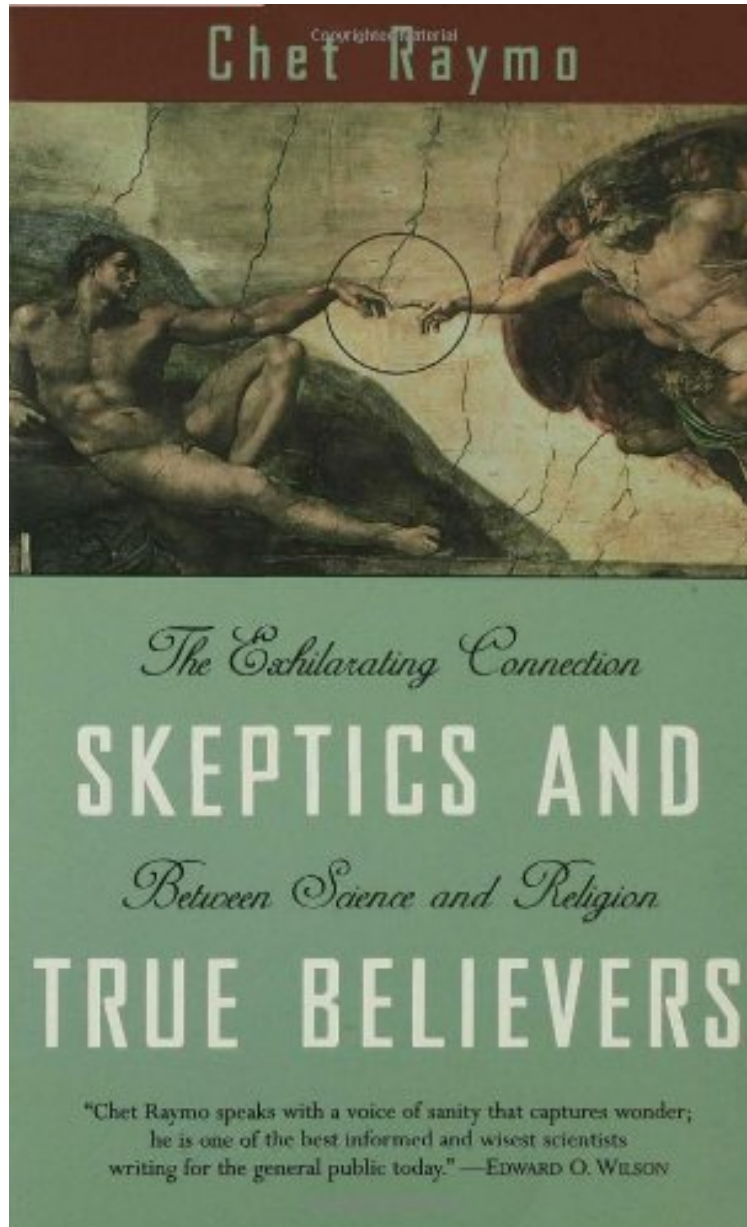


(Free download) Skeptics and True Believers

## Skeptics and True Believers

Chet Raymo

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**Chet Raymo : Skeptics and True Believers** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Skeptics and True Believers:

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. The Common Link Between Religion and ScienceBy BugsThe link

is awe and admiration of creation and a reverence for all life from the micro to the macro. Although brought up in Catholicism, Raymo was later schooled in science (physics and astronomy) and has been attempting to rectify the rifts between religion and science ever since. This he does just about as good or better than anyone. In "Skeptics and True Believers", one will find close parallels to the writing of environmentalist Thomas Berry, biologist E.O. Wilson, et al. Raymo's writing style is lyrical, poetic, anecdotal, scholarly and very insightful- most of all, compelling. One will find this book full of great citations with his own thoughts thrown in, such as: ["Put on your jumping shoes," cried the fourteenth-century mystic Meister Eckhart, "which are intellect and love." Religion without science is idolatrous. Science without religion might be even more dangerous: amoral power without constraint, without wisdom, without love.] Indeed! And Raymo's take on reductionism: "No theory conceived by the human mind will ever be final. The universe is vast, marvelous, and deep beyond our knowing; its horizons will always recede before our advance. All dreams of finality are (probably) futile." Although skeptical of the efficacy of some of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin's conclusions in the "Phenomenon of Man", he concurs with him with: [He insisted that the surest way to know God is through his creation, and the truest knowledge of creation is that provided by contemporary science. "Less and less do I see any difference now between research and adoration."]. And with that, keep in mind that Teilhard was a French Benedictine Monk and paleontologist /geologist who often ran afoul of the church for his thoughts, so he left his works to a friend in the U.S. to be published posthumously. Although I read this great work of Raymo's almost 2 years ago, I was inspired to write this review after reading his latest book, "Climbing Brandon" which is a continuation of his efforts to balance religion and science and he wrote that book while residing at his second home on Ireland's Dingle Peninsula near the foot of Mt. Brandon. It is a beautiful piece of work and makes a fine sequel to "Skeptics". 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Skeptics give us science and all the advancements of humankind ...By Craig Wilkinson Skeptics give us science and all the advancements of humankind. True believers give us superstition, tribalism, the Middle Ages, aggression wars and death. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. positions By Roy John Kahler The circumstances being described in here is deep in my interests and impression. To have the ability to find this or these points of view in another person communicating to would be phenomenal on its own.

Years ago, noted science teacher and writer Chet Raymo embarked upon his own quest to reconcile the miracle stories he learned as a child with the science he learned as an adult. "Skeptics and True Believers" is the culmination of that search: a passionate, ever-inquisitive statement that science and religion can mutually reinforce the way we experience the world. Acknowledging that the scientific and the spiritual communities are increasingly split, Raymo builds strong bridges between them. He illustrates his argument with an array of thought-provoking stories, such as the remarkable migratory flight of a small bird called the red knot; the long, glorious glide of the Comet Hyakutake across the night sky; a hilarious alien abduction that didn't happen. Together, they are compelling evidence that religion should embrace the reliable knowledge of the world that science provides, while at the same time science should respect and nourish humankind's need for spiritual sustenance. "Miracles are explainable," Raymo paraphrases the writer Tim Robinson, "it is the explanations that are miraculous." For anyone drawn to reflect on life's meaning and purpose, Chet Raymo's uncompromising skepticism and reverence for mystery will affirm and inspire.

From Publishers Weekly Responding in part to the rise of millennial-driven New Age spirituality, Raymo (Honey from Stone: A Naturalist's Search for God) writes along the tender edges of mystery that bind off objective science from religious faith. Using a light journalistic style, Raymo seeks to find some common ground upon which to construct mutual appreciation between science and religion. Sources diverse as John Donne, Charles Darwin, Gerard Manley Hopkins and Albert Einstein enliven the discussion. Raymo begins with a brief autobiographical sketch of his early life in Roman Catholicism. He moves on to his college-aged discovery of the satisfaction in the complete, verifiable and reproducible, if limited, answers that science affords. A scientist through and through, Raymo yet maintains an appreciation for the ineffable in life. While the author does not disguise his scientific preferences, it will take readers some time to see that this is not an evenhanded discussion. By lumping astrology, UFO enthusiasts and fundamental religionists together, Raymo's intellectual prejudices and disdain for what he calls "True Believers" finally becomes apparent. The work lacks proper responses by contemporary philosophical theologians, as well. Still, Raymo's book will prove worthwhile for those curious about science as the myth of the modern age. Rights (except world English, translation, audio): Palmer Dodge. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Declaring himself a "Skeptic who believes that words like God, soul, sacred, spirituality, sacrament, and grace can retain currency in an age of science...", noted science writer Raymo argues for a reconciliation between science and religion. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist "We are riven," Raymo writes, split between the teachings of science and "the idea of God." He places the "Skeptics," people who accept that our understanding of the universe evolves over time, on one side of this great divide, and "True Believers," people who expect enlightenment from outside the province of human consciousness, on the other. A skillful science writer by dint of his Boston Globe column, Raymo refines his definition of these two mind-sets, and explores the profound cultural implications of the conflict between them, by broaching such provocative topics as miracles, our "millennial madness," astrology, alien

abductions, and creationism. Gradually and convincingly, he builds a case for the "organized skepticism" of science and against a "retreat into primitivism and superstition." In his most stirring passages, Raymo assures us that science is not spiritually destructive, and that contemplation of such natural wonders as DNA inspires reverence, awe, and transcendence. The hard truth Raymo so judiciously presents is that we must get over our fear and loathing of science so that we can create a new set of beliefs that unites the revelations of both the tangible world and the soul. Donna Seaman