
DAVID BENTLEY HART

BORN 1965

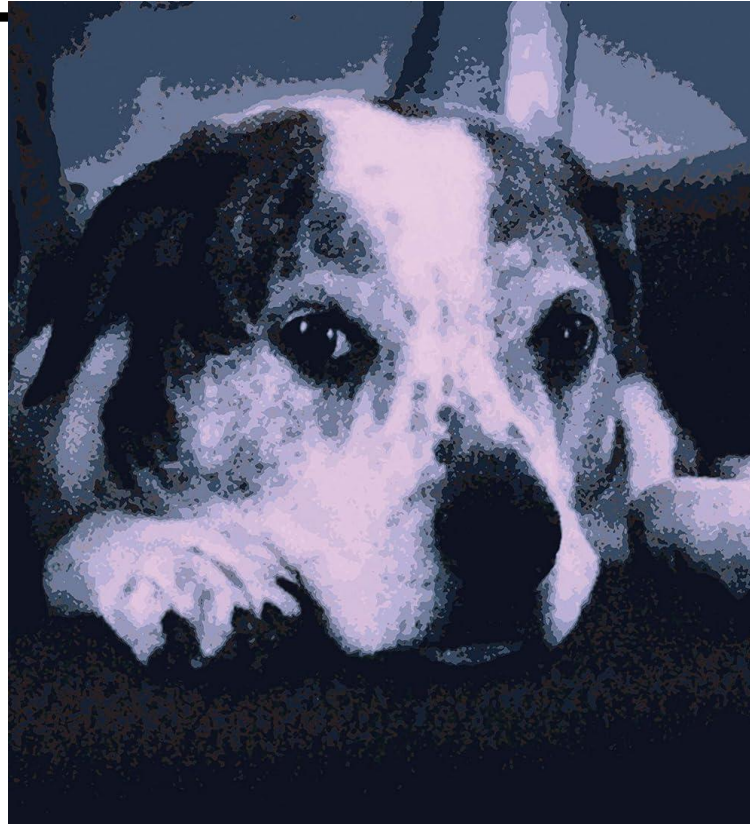


"I can think of no more brilliant work by an American theologian
in the past ten years."
— WILLIAM G. FLAHERTY
in *The Christian Century*

The Beauty of the Infinite

The Aesthetics of Christian Truth

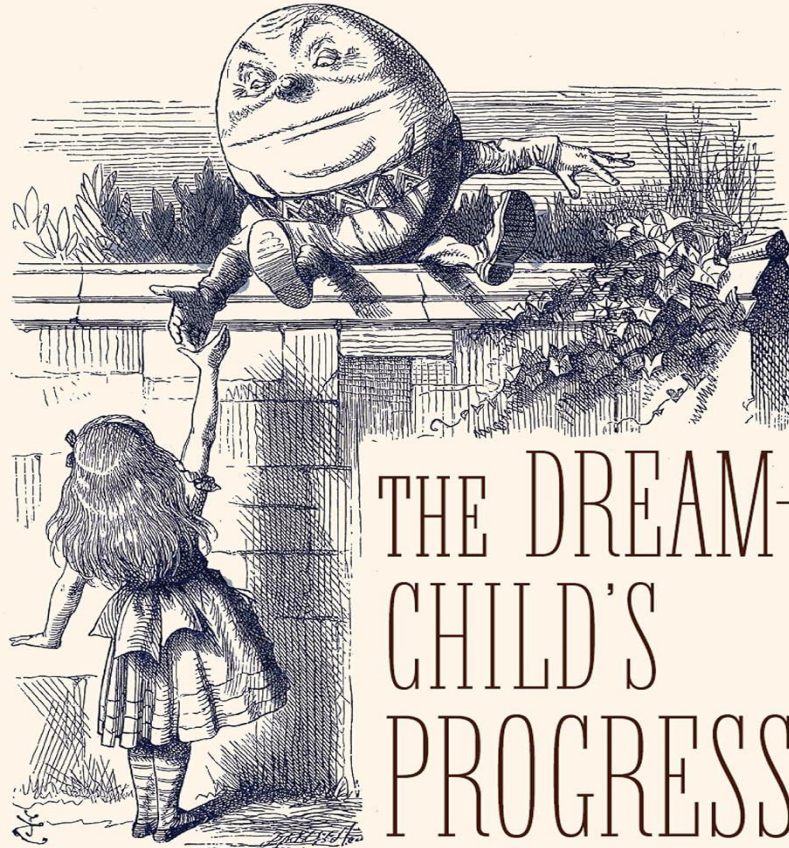
DAVID
BENTLEY
HART



Roland In Moonlight

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THE DREAM-
CHILD'S
PROGRESS

& OTHER ESSAYS

Areas of Concentration

Critique of Materialism

Consciousness

Philosophical Theology and Metaphysics

Theosis

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

The **GOD** Delusion

Richard
Dawkins

David
Bentley
Hart

**Atheist
Delusions**

The Christian
Revolution
and its
Fashionable
Enemies

The God-Delusion, an energetic attack on all religious belief, has just been released by Richard Dawkins, the zoologist and tireless Tractarian, who – despite his incapacity for philosophical reasoning – never fails to enhance his eager readers with his historical recklessness....

One need hardly mention the extraordinary sales achieved by Dan Brown's Da Vinci Code, now a major film and surely the most lucrative novel ever written by a borderline illiterate.

I am keen to score as many telling blows as I can against what I take to be false histories and against dishonest or incompetent historians...

At a particular moment in history, I believe, something happened to Western humanity that changed it at the deepest levels of consciousness and at the highest level of culture. It was something of such strange and radiant vastness that it is almost inexplicable that the memory of it should have so largely faded from our minds...

THE EXPERIENCE OF

GOD

BEING, CONSCIOUSNESS, BLISS

DAVID BENTLEY HART

AUTHOR OF ATHEIST BELIEVERS

The main subject of Hart's critique is the **materialism** of the modern age. Some great scientists have been religious thinkers. But for very many the consequence of science has been atheism, because they have concluded that **what is ultimately real is matter**, the stuff from which all is made.

Hart quotes from Stephen Hawking's famous book, "A Brief History of Time," in which Hawking, a materialist and atheist, writes that given gravity, a universe could be constructed. How do Hawking or other materialists account for the existence of their most basic elements? They don't.

Hart revives the argument of a 19th century Christian philosopher, Schelling:

science can explain what something is; it can analyze its constituents and development.

But science cannot explain that it is.

Science cannot account for existence.

Materialist scientists and philosophers
stop thinking at the crucial point.

In a sense, the triviality of atheism is its chief virtue. It is a diverting alternative to thinking deeply.

Atheism is a narcotic. In our time irreligion is the opiate of the bourgeoisie, the sigh of the oppressed ego, the heart of a world filled with tantalizing toys.

{Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world..., it is the opium of the people.}

To proclaim triumphantly that there is no God, no eternal gaze that beholds our cruelties and betrayals, and no final beatitude for the soul after death, may seem bold and admirable to a comfortable bourgeois academic who rarely if ever has to descend into the misery of those whose lives are at best a state of constant anxiety or at worst the indelible memory of the death of a child.

God is the source and fullness of all being, the actuality in which all finite things live, move, and have their being (Acts 17:28), or in which all things hold together; and so he is also the reality that is present in all things as the very act of their existence. God...is not a being but is at once beyond being...and also absolute Being in itself.
