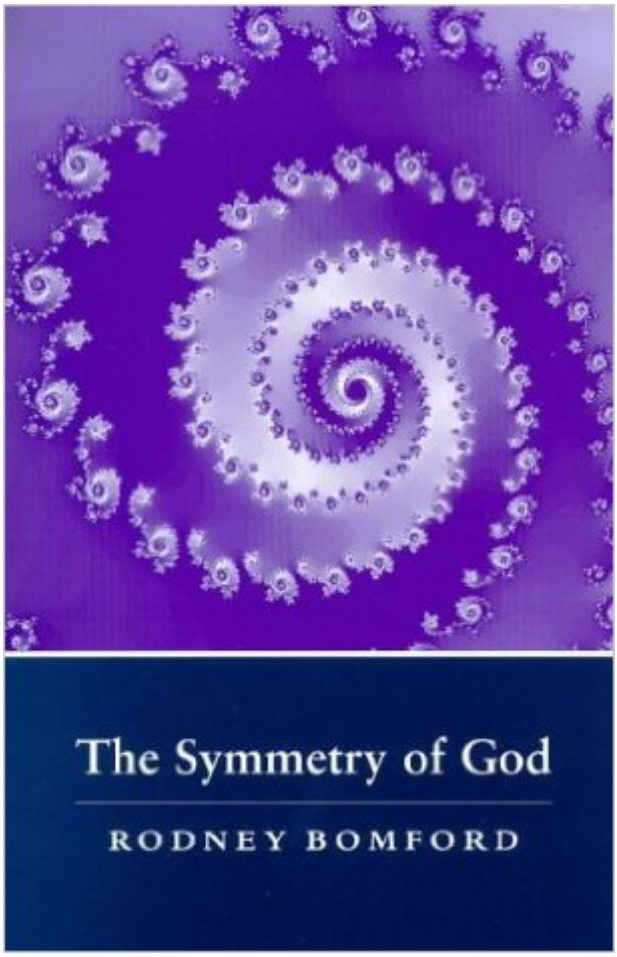
The Symmetry Of God



Synopsis

Why does the age-long quest for the eternal express itself always in paradox? Eternity is both an attribute of God and a characteristic of the Freudian unconscious. Recent developments in psychoanalytic theory have discovered an irrational logic at work in the unconscious process. This symmetric logic (in the mathematical sense of symmetry) produces paradoxes incomprehensible to asymmetric classic logic. The path of the mystic is an approach to an aspect of God analogous to the human unconscious, and is expressed through paradoxes of symmetric logic; whereas the god who reveals himself in history is a god who, by the same analogy, also exercises consciousness and is, at least partially, subject to classical logic. Christian faith holds to both the concept of an eternal god beyond time and of a god who acts in time. This involves both logics, and explains the paradoxical, symbolic and mythical nature of theological propositions. It also throws light on the conflict between realist and non-realist views of God and allows an understanding of orthodox Christianity which transcends both. This book will be of interest to theologians, psychoanalysts, philosophers and their students.

Book Information

Paperback: 165 pages

Publisher: Free Association Books; 1 edition (June 1, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1853434388

ISBN-13: 978-1853434389

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.8 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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