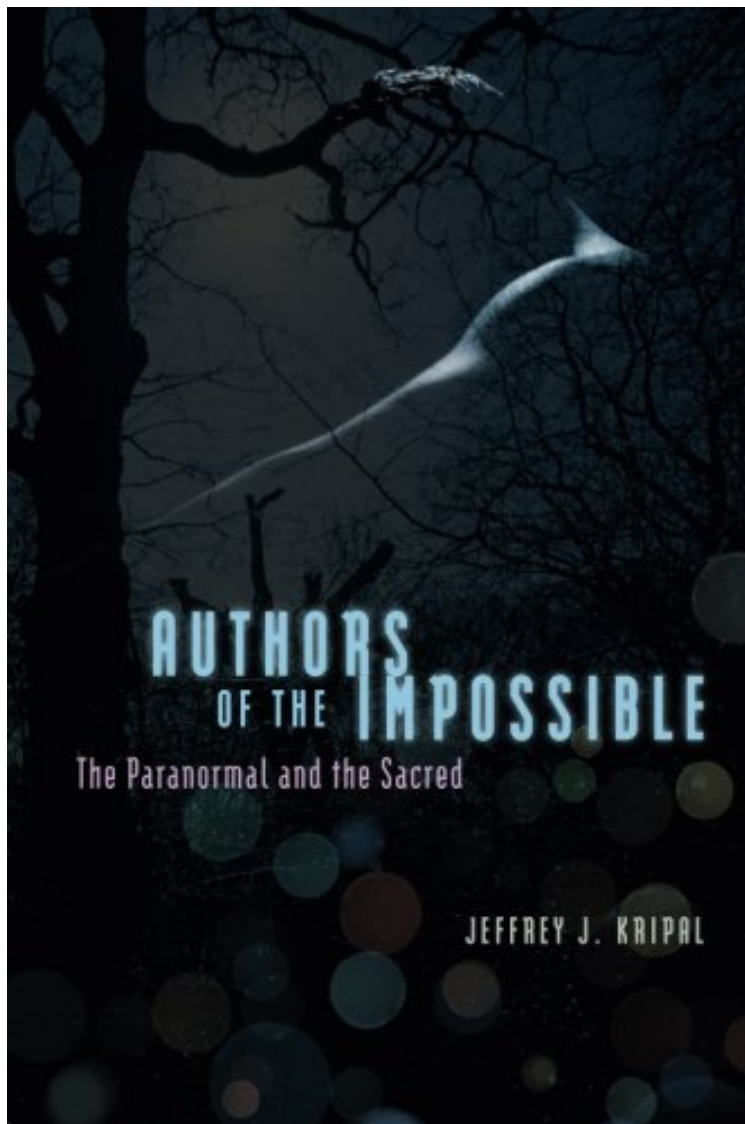


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Authors of the Impossible: The Paranormal and the Sacred

Jeffrey J. Kripal

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Jeffrey J. Kripal : Authors of the Impossible: The Paranormal and the Sacred before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Authors of the Impossible: The Paranormal and the Sacred:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Writers of the impossible and its emerging possibilities.By Ubaldo Morales-RamosJeffrey J Kripal brings the metaphorical impossible into the field of consciousness and theoretically completes an important imaginal gnostic circle. He takes thought back closer to its root home of religion, not by way

of institutionalized religious dogma or belief but by way of comparative religion. Suddenly comparative religion has taken over psychology as gateway field mapping the imaginal. The imaginal has flown away from Hillman's Mediterranean/California Pacifica's grip, landing in mid-southwestern New Mexico's surrounding regions with its intellectual core at Rice University in Houston. Metaphors of the unknown, the impossible paradoxically makes presence into the real inexplicably, moving along history by way of cultural variations of itself. "As if" cultural similes to which we are contributors. We are writers of the fantastic impossible and its emerging possibilities. Kripal brings this notion into the field of religion, specifically comparative religion, extraterrestrials included. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Universe is Shaped by the Imagination? By A. Luther This book is for those who feel yearn for a view of nature and reality that embraces "the fantastic." The Fantastic are those events that occur in the world which are deeply meaningful - or sometimes just absurd to the rational mind - and are also not explicable or reducible to the materialistic paradigm of science. Kripal argues however, that the Fantastic is also not strictly reducible to a religious account. Kripal sees the Fantastic as being more explicable to art, writing and creativity in general, since the Fantastic occurs when the objective world reflects or resonates with our own cultural creations and our own creative ways of seeing or imagining the world. Kripal focuses on four "authors of the impossible" to make his argument - Frederick Myers, one the early pioneers of psychical research; Charles Fort, another pioneer, who liked to investigate recordings of strange, unusual, sometimes seemingly impossible events; Jaques Vallee, a French polymath who has written extensively on UFOs and describes UFO events as a phenomenon that is neither purely subjective - they are not fake accounts or mere hallucinations - nor are they purely objective in the sense that UFOs are not simply alien astronauts from outer space in flying machines. Kripal's final "author of the impossible" is Bertrand Meheust, a contemporary associate of Vallee's who argues that the actual world - both psychological and physical - is determined by the social and cultural practices and paradigms within which we try to understand it. Kripal contends that all four men understand humanity to be dualistic in that we are connected to the world in both an everyday, mundane, physical level and also on a higher, spiritual level where we are connected to a greater cosmic mind or minds. Through this cosmic connection we can not only manifest amazing abilities such as psychic powers but even alter the nature of our own reality. Many may be sceptical about Kripal's picture of consciousness and the world, but no one could blame him for making it boring. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Kripal is the Man of the Hour By Kathlena F. Mailloux Mr. Kripal has certainly set my mind on fire. After reading his "Super Natural" I had to continue that train of thought. Awesome research. I highly respect your works.

Most scholars dismiss research into the paranormal as pseudoscience, a frivolous pursuit for the paranoid or gullible. Even historians of religion, whose work naturally attends to events beyond the realm of empirical science, have shown scant interest in the subject. But the history of psychical phenomena, Jeffrey J. Kripal contends, is an untapped source of insight into the sacred and by tracing that history through the last two centuries of Western thought we can see its potential centrality to the critical study of religion. Kripal grounds his study in the work of four major figures in the history of paranormal research: psychical researcher Frederic Myers; writer and humorist Charles Fort; astronomer, computer scientist, and ufologist Jacques Vallee; and philosopher and sociologist Bertrand Meheust. Through incisive analyses of these thinkers, Kripal ushers the reader into a beguiling world somewhere between fact, fiction, and fraud. The cultural history of telepathy, teleportation, and UFOs; a ghostly love story; the occult dimensions of science fiction; cold war psychic espionage; galactic colonialism; and the intimate relationship between consciousness and culture all come together in *Authors of the Impossible*, a dazzling and profound look at how the paranormal bridges the sacred and the scientific.

Kripal's erudite writing, interspersed with snippets of humour, moves along at an enthusiastic pace; it is evident that he finds this area of study exciting, both personally and academically. Rather than dismissing the paranormal as pseudoscience or belonging only to the rat-bag fringe, Kripal suggests instead that a more gainful approach is to investigate how the paranormal might bridge the sacred and the scientific. . . . This is an intriguing and daring book. . . . that greatly contributes to those discussions and suggests methodologies that can integrate the humanities and the sciences, the brain/mind distinctions, contemporary neuroscience, and psychical research.