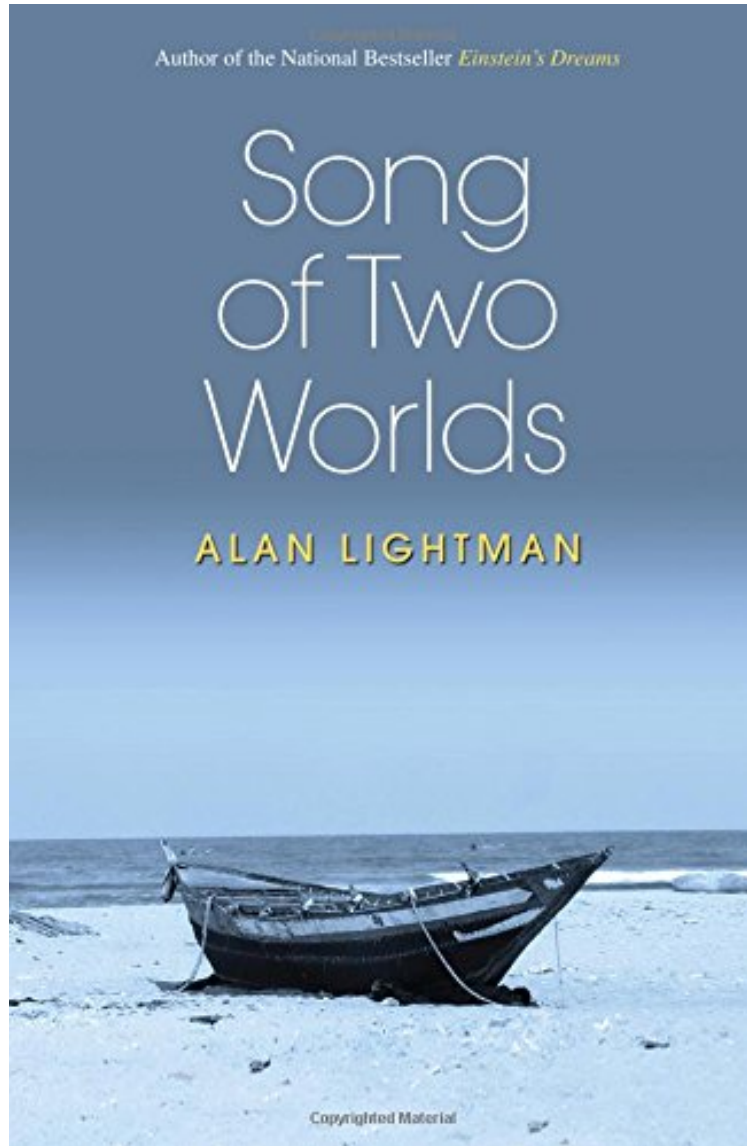


(Download) Song of Two Worlds

Song of Two Worlds

Alan Lightman

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Alan Lightman : Song of Two Worlds before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Song of Two Worlds:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting poemBy Wendy C. Turgeonquick delivery. Much appreciated.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. lovelyBy Alpha LibraePoetic, scientific, insightful and simply beautiful. An atmospheric reflecting on the nature of the personal and the universal. Draws you ever deeper into the narrator's inner world. Reads almost like a more narrative version of Khalil Gibran's Prophet.10 of 10 people

found the following review helpful. A unique thing to behold
By Midwest Book Review
Created by a man of science and of art, Alan Lightman's work is a unique thing to behold. "Song of Two Worlds" is a collection of poetry from the physicist, as he blends his two disciplines well for a truly fascinating insight into the world around us. With fine verse, "Song of Two Worlds" is a top pick. "44":
Afternoon on my terrace, I sit/
In the heat, bare chested,
Sipping hot tea. Far off,
The sound of an oud. And then nothing.
The air closes, silence. Again,
The faint strings of old,
Muffled bells, drums,
Horn sound of mizmar --/
All swallowed in air.

In Alan Lightman's new book, a verse narrative, we meet a man who has lost his faith in all things following a mysterious personal tragedy. After decades of living "hung like a dried fly," emptied and haunted by his past, the narrator awakens one morning revitalized and begins a Dante-like journey to find something to believe in, first turning to the world of science and then to the world of philosophy, religion, and human life. As his personal story is slowly revealed, little by little, we confront the great questions of the cosmos and of the human heart, some questions with answers and others without.

The book begins with an un-named protagonist finding himself suddenly moved to re-examine his life, both to confront past tragedies and failings and also to look for meaning. We overhear his thoughts as he uses his scientific skill to interrogate the mechanisms of the cosmos and the workings of his own body. When he reaches the limits of scientific questions with answers he turns to questions without answers which must be explored by faith, art or philosophy. Alongside rehearsals of insights by great thinkers and teachers we also get glimpses of the narrators relationship with an old and loyal servant. This weaving of the lofty with the human and mundane is one of the more effective aspects of the book. -- Michael Bartholomew-Biggs, London Mathematical Society, May 2010
Alan Lightman could have written this verse narrative that brings together his explorations in the worlds of science, art and philosophy and makes of them this strange and mysterious but seamless and beguiling whole. -- Anita Desai, July 2009
Lightman's Song of Two Worlds is of consistent high quality and poetic energy. To begin with, the perspective is intelligently conceived, surprising, and productive. The provenance of the speaker who obviously is rooted in the Islamic culture, his scientific competence, his familiarity with history-combined with his personal view, his regular life, his introspective mood, all this creates a captivating and innovative narrative verse. Congratulations! -- Hans Magnus Enzensberger, July 2009
In taking on several more layers than the usual two-cultures-debate-featuring works, and quite successfully dealing with them, Song of Two Worlds is a nice addition to the scientific-poetic library. -- M. A. Orthofer, The Complete , October 2009
Song of Two Worlds has been chosen as one of Seed Magazine's "Books to Read Now" for the month of November. Click on the link above for details! -- Seed Magazine, November 2009
Alan Lightman's Song of Two Worlds has been reviewed in Nature Magazine! Click the link above for access to the article. - -NATURE Magazine, November 2009
Song of Two Worlds by Alan Lightman is currently being featured on New Scientist's Holiday wish list. Check out the link above for details! -- Liz Else, New Scientist, December 2009
Created by a man of science and art, Alan Lightman's work is a unique thing to behold. "Song of Two Worlds" is a collection of poetry from the physicist, as he blends his two disciplines well for a truly fascinating insight into the world around us. With fine verse, "Song of Two Worlds" is a top pick. -- The Midwest Book , December 2009
Alan Lightman was recently profiled by a new online site, Chapter 16. This site is dedicated to Tennessee writers and readers. Please click on the link above for the full article! -- Maria Browning, Chapter 16, January 2010
About the Author
Alan Lightman, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA
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40
Abbas and I shovel sheep dung, My olive trees hunched
Like a throng of old men
Sun overhead, I look up
And I gaze at the clouds
This is the way that I see:
Ten trillion photons of light make their way
Through my pupils each second of time,
Through the oval-shaped lens, through
The jelly-like fill to the retina, hundreds
Of millions of cells, where each photon
Of light meets a molecule, retinene, coaxing
It straight from its twisty vine,
Curled bougainvillea-like. Neurons
Respond to the dance. Protein molecules shift
In their shape, so that sodium cannot
find Passage, electrical charge unrelieved,
Shudder of current moves through
The neurons and flies to the folds of my brain.
Here the fourth layer is sentry, receives
The first tingle, computes a sensation,
And passes its tremblings to five other sheets.
In shards of a second, some hundreds
Of millions of neurons start quivering,
Each being shocked by one thousand others
And doing the same to one thousand more.
Click-click-click sound the firings,
Some punctured and scattered, some synchronized.
Click-click the pulsings in waves
And my brain tells me cloud. I believe in the
knowledge of sight.