



Crimes of Reason *On Mind, Nature, and the Paranormal*

BY STEPHEN E. BRAUDE

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Crimes of Reason brings together expanded and updated versions of some of Braude's best previously published essays, along with new essays written specifically for this book. Although the essays deal with a variety of topics, they all hover around a set of interrelated general themes. These are: the poverty of mechanistic theories in the behavioral and life sciences, the nature of psychological explanation and (at least within the halls of the Academy) the unappreciated strategies required to understand behavior, the nature of dissociation, and the nature and limits of human abilities. Braude's targets include memory trace theory, inner-cause theories of human behavior generally, Sheldrake's theory of morphogenetic fields, widespread but simplistic views on the nature of human abilities, multiple personality and moral responsibility, the efficacy of prayer, and the shoddy tactics often used to discredit research on dissociation and parapsychology. Although the topics are often abstract and the issues deep, their treatment in this book is accessible, and the tone of the book is both light and occasionally combative.

PRAISE FOR THE AUTHOR:

Stephen Braude is a professional philosopher and well-established author both of books and articles who is particularly noted for two things. One is for his work in certain Borderland areas in which topics within philosophy, psychology, parapsychology and psychiatry meet, overlap and interact (or should interact). The other is for the clarity and pithiness of expression with which he handles abstruse and difficult issues. He has a gift for analogies, often amusing ones, which cut through layers of nonsense (often pretentious nonsense loaded with jargon) and expose the nub of a question.

— Alan Gauld, University of Nottingham

Stephen Braude is unique among those evaluating the evidence for an after-life in that he manages to combine a sympathetic consideration of favorable cases with an honest, penetrating philosophical critique of them.

— Richard M. Gale, University of Pittsburgh

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Stephen E. Braude is an [American philosopher](#) and [parapsychologist](#). He is a past president of the [Parapsychological Association](#), Editor-in-Chief of the [Journal of Scientific Exploration](#), and an Emeritus professor of philosophy at the [University of Maryland, Baltimore County](#).

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