

*This is a totally new way of looking at the evolution of the human brain. It is so totally fresh, unexpected and hitherto unthought-of that it will probably take a long time before evolutionary anthropologists and psychologists begin to take it on board; but it will make an impact, of that there is no doubt. It will be, it must be, taken very seriously in any discussion of human origins.*

**Professor Colin Groves**

**School of Archaeology & Anthropology Australian National University**

**Author of several books including *A Theory Of Human And Primate Evolution* and *Bones, Stones and Molecules***

*I've received and read 'Left in the Dark' and am a little overwhelmed by it. I find myself arguing with it, quoting it, extolling it, disagreeing with it -- a very provocative tool as we attempt to find clarity about what's happening to us, and in particular, what the "human-nature-relationship" (the heart of "Ecopsychology") really is. Congratulations for a truly amazing book.*

**Robert Greenway**

**Professor Emeritus, Sonoma State University.**

**Author *The Wilderness Effect and Ecopsychology in Restoring the Earth, Healing the Mind.***

*Graham Gynn and Tony Wright follow the implications of modern brain research to an astounding conclusion: that our culturally acquired left-brain dominance has cost us our sanity, and that ancient myths about a fall from grace actually record neurochemical events within our skulls. But if we have alienated ourselves from nature and our original state of wholeness, there may be a way back. This is a startling book that makes us rethink the most fundamental issues of religion, psychology, and philosophy.*

**Richard Heinberg - lecturer at the New College of California and author of eight books including *Memories and Visions of Paradise* and *The Oil Depletion Protocol***

*If the key proposal outlined in 'Left in the Dark' is even partially accurate, then the evolution, development and function of the most complex thing we know (the human brain) is likely to have been a direct product of the most biochemically complex ecological system (the tropical forest). Moreover, if our disconnection from that ecology has affected the development of our brain and compromised our state of mind, it adds a whole new dimension to the task of defining 'normal' behaviour. The wholesale destruction of the tropical forests may, therefore, be more accurately characterised as a tragic case of self-mutilation than simple ecological catastrophe.*

**Tim Smit Chief Executive The Eden Project**

*If we can stand back and gain a certain critical distance from privileging our habitual mind-lens or entrenched localized worldviews and cross into a more expanded and inclusive open global space across and between diverse worldviews astounding mega-patterns come into relief. In this dilated global lens we are able to discern a dormant tradition of Global Wisdom through the ages wherein deeper dimensions of science, knowledge and alternative narratives of our evolution emerge to the fore.*

*One such astounding mega-pattern is the emergent consensus that when we are lodged in certain "egomental" or "monocentric" habits of mind in processing our world, self and culture this adolescent technology of consciousness invariably generates personal and cultural dysfunctions and pathologies and produces existential suffering of all kinds in our human condition. In contrast, our great wisdom traditions teach that when we mature to more integral, holistic and dialogic patterns of world-making this opens higher dimensions of cognition and brings us into deeper encounters with the Unified Field of Objective Reality.*

***Left in the Dark (The Biological Origins of the Fall from Grace)*** by Graham Gynn and Tony Wright is a bold experimental journey into this largely uncharted frontier of Integral Science. The sub-title of this intriguing book- ***An investigation into the evolution of the human brain. A Journey to the edge of the human mind*** – hints at daring scope of this adventure. This powerful thought-experiment challenges the current dominant paradigms of evolutionary science and invokes a radical reconsideration and revision across disciplines in understanding our evolutionary drama- the generative development of our brain, our patterns of consciousness, our rational capacities, our cultural patterns, even our unfolding human form. This alternative thought-experiment sheds light on the great challenges faced by humanity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and opens possibilities for us to rise together in conscious evolution in advancing toward sustainable global cultures, for personal and collective flourishing. This courageous book deserves careful critical attention.

**Ashok Gangadean**

**Professor and Chair of Philosophy (Haverford College, USA)**

**Founder-Director of the Global Dialogue Institute**

**Co-Founder of the World Commission for Global Consciousness and Spirituality**

**Author: *The Awakening of the Global Mind* [www.awakeningmind.org](http://www.awakeningmind.org)**

*It will be a dia-biological disgrace if the thesis in this book is not studied, considered and tested by all involved in the human sciences. It pulls together many strings of human evolution, anthropology and ecology into a net of intrigue, intuition and integration. It is a sane insight into behaviour that at various times in history has been considered insane. There is worldliness about the prose and presentation that links experiential and historical evidence unrestrained by the tyranny of the double-blind, placebo controlled methodology. However, it is respectful of the need for scientifically acceptable evidence whilst presenting artistic and perhaps instinctive evidence featured throughout human evolution. Tony Wright is from the tradition of researchers who have used themselves as experimental subjects whilst being able to apply objective assessment with rational thought. He is not confined to the standardised scientific tick-boxes but uses his brains, literally in the plural, to promote the right hemisphere as at least an equal partner or even director alongside the presently dominant left hemisphere. Perhaps we are all schizophrenic to some degree but the cerebral leftist minority may be more right than wrong!*

*It is an enlightening read that is timely in that it addresses nutrition, health and behavioural issues that are now receiving official consideration because of developing social problems for which conventional thinking and practice are not moderating, preventing or controlling.*

*Modern development of concepts such as sexual and racial equality, social inclusion, human rights and even terrorism may be better understood from a grasp of the theses that is presented here. We may be better able to save the world at the same time as improving health if we think and act more intelligently about genetics, hormones and medication. We do not need genetic modification, steroids, statins and fluoridisation of drinking water. We do need more nutritional gene support; more melatonin and more fruit. More research and practice as called for in this book is likely to bear fruit for our future.*

**C. Peter W. Bennett BA(Hons) in Human Sciences, University of Oxford; MA(Oxon, MBA (Aston), M.Phil. (Exeter) in Complementary Health.**

**Peter Bennett is a former Police Superintendent and founder of the Restorative Health Co. Ltd**

*I think the theory holds together well! But it takes an interdisciplinary cast of mind to fully understand it.*

*I have to go over all that you have written much more carefully. You're onto something, no doubt!*

*This is important information that needs to reach a wider audience.*

**Dr. Dennis J. McKenna**

**Co-founder, Director of Ethnopharmacology**

**The Heffter Research Institute**

*I did have a chance now to read *Left in the Dark*. I found it very interesting and pertinent. I am not enough of a historian to pass judgement on the nutrition/evolution/lost dominance observations but found them thought provoking. Of special interest were the LSD/right hemisphere studies you cited along with some of the other split brain findings. The idea of lost dominance rather than inherent dominance, and then bringing the hemispheres back into balance is quite congruent with my thinking.*

*We are a left brain society; the left brain has served us well. But we crave, and need, some right brain skills, particularly 'vision and creativity which get lost in the dominant hemisphere 'tyranny'.*

*The sleep studies are interesting also. Maybe it is the left hemisphere that requires 'rest' and 'sorting' and only then, as we sleep, only then is the right hemisphere free to do its thing and roam among the memories, I am convinced, are stored there. Are you aware of the Russian woman (non-savant) who reads at an incredible 40,000 words per minute, or maybe 140,000 (I need to go back to that reference)--whatever the speed--she can read *War and Peace* in 10 minutes or so. Right hemisphere at work? I think so. Interestingly Kim Peek who reads one page with one eye and the other with his other eye has no corpus callosum. Yet in recent years he is developing much more comprehension of what he reads so he is forming connections as he goes, and grows.*

*Interesting stuff. Thanks for the book. Now I need to digest it fully.*

**Darold A. Treffert, M.D. Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry  
University of Wisconsin Medical School, Madison.**

**Author: *Extraordinary People: Understanding Savant Syndrome***

**[www.savantsyndrome.com](http://www.savantsyndrome.com)**

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