



Inventing the Universe: Platos Timaeus, the Big Bang, and the Problem of Scientific Knowledge

By Luc Brisson

State University of New York Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 204 pages. Dimensions: 8.8in. x 6.5in. x 0.4in. A parallel investigation of both Platos Timaeus and the contemporary standard Big Bang model of the universe shows that any possible scientific knowledge of the universe is ultimately grounded in irreducible and undemonstrable propositions. These are inventions of the human mind. The scientific knowledge of the universe is entirely composed in a series of axioms and rules of inference underlying a formalized system. There is no logical relationship between the sensible perception of a world of becoming and the formalized system of axioms known as a scientific explanation. The irrational gap between perception and explanation can be appraised historically and identified in three stages: Platos Timaeus furnishes the first example of a scientific theory dealing with a realm of ideality that cannot be derived from immediate sensible perception; the Big Bang model is constituted on the basis of the purely geometrical notion of symmetry; and in the more recent Algorithmic Theory of Information, the analysis of the purely symbolic language expressing physical reality reveals the level of complexity of any given theory formulated in this language. The result is that the probability of...



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