

CARL SAGAN



THE DEMON- HAUNTED WORLD

SCIENCE AS A CANDLE
IN THE DARK

‘Eloquent and fascinating... I wish I had written
The Demon-Haunted World... Please read this book.’

Richard Dawkins, *The Times*

Are we on the brink of a new Dark Age of irrationality and superstition?

In this stirring, brilliantly argued book, internationally respected scientist Carl Sagan shows how scientific thinking is necessary to safeguard our democratic institutions and our technical civilisation. From an American president consulting horoscopes to a medieval court burning nine-year-old 'witches', Sagan shows the hazards of scientific ignorance. Convincingly debunking alien abduction, mediums, faith-healing fraud, and other modern-day 'demons', he also refutes the argument that science destroys spirituality, asks why scientific study is often stigmatised, and provides a 'baloney detection kit' for thinking through political, social and other issues.

'This is a stimulating study of science as, at its best, a positively inspirational answer to the irrational rituals that, at their worst, threaten the planet. Sagan helps us accept the world as it is, not as a fakeloric fantasy.' Alan Bold, *Glasgow Herald*

'A brilliant populariser of astronomy and space science ... Sagan's writing is as lucid and stylish as ever.' Clive Cookson, *Financial Times*

'My candidate for planetary ambassador can be none other than Carl Sagan himself. He is wise, humane, polymathic, witty, well read, and incapable of composing a dull sentence.' Richard Dawkins, *The Times*

'No one has ever succeeded in conveying the wonder, excitement and joy of science as widely as Carl Sagan and few as well ... His ability to capture the imagination of millions and to explain difficult concepts in understandable terms is a magnificent achievement.'

The National Academy of Sciences, on awarding Carl Sagan
its highest honour in 1994

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United Kingdom £7.99

HEADLINE
Non-fiction/Popular Science

ISBN 0-7472-5156-8



00799



THE DEMON-HAUNTED WORLD

Carl Sagan is the David Duncan Professor of Astronomy and Space Sciences and Director of the Laboratory for Planetary Studies at Cornell University; Distinguished Visiting Scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology; and co-founder and President of The Planetary Society, the largest space-interest group in the world.

For his work, Dr Sagan has been awarded the NASA Medals for Exceptional Scientific Achievement and (twice) for Distinguished Public Service, as well as the NASA Apollo Achievement Award. Asteroid 2709 Sagan is named after him.

*This is the twenty-ninth book Carl Sagan has authored,
co-authored or edited. Some of his other books:*

Intelligent Life in the Universe
(with I. S. Shklovskii)

The Dragons of Eden

Broca's Brain

Cosmos

Contact: A Novel

Comet
(with Ann Druyan)

*A Path Where No Man Thought:
Nuclear Winter and the End of the Arms Race*
(with Richard Turco)

*Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors:
A Search for Who We Are*
(with Ann Druyan)

*Pale Blue Dot:
A Vision of the Human Future in Space*

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**First published in 1996
by HEADLINE BOOK PUBLISHING**

**First published in this edition in 1997
by HEADLINE BOOK PUBLISHING**

10 9 8 7 6 5 4

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ISBN 0 7472 5156 8

**Typeset by
Letterpart Limited, Reigate, Surrey**

**Printed and bound in Great Britain by
Clays Ltd, St Ives plc**

**HEADLINE BOOK PUBLISHING
A division of Hodder Headline PLC
338 Euston Road
London NW1 3BH**

To Tonio,
My grandson.

I wish you a world
Free of demons
And full of light.

