



The Miraculous from the Material

Understanding the Wonders of Nature

Alan Lightman

Best-selling author of *Einstein's Dreams*



The Miraculous from the Material: Understanding the Wonders of Nature

Alan Lightman, Ph.D.

Professor of the practice of the humanities at MIT and author of seven novels.

Dacher Keltner, Ph.D.

Professor of psychology and faculty director of the Greater Good Science Center, UC Berkeley. Author of *Awe* and *The Power Paradox*.

Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 7:00 PM

Register: www.bit.ly/LightmanFANWebinar

PLUS: After-Hours Event!

Purchase a copy of *The Miraculous from the Material* from FAN's partner bookseller The Book Stall to receive a link to an interactive "After-Hours" event hosted by Lightman. Details on the Zoom registration form.

This event is #freeandopentothepublic and will be recorded.

Suitable for youth 12+



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: ALAN LIGHTMAN, Ph.D. – ON ZOOM

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Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 7:00 PM, The Miraculous from the Material: Understanding the Wonders of Nature, a FAN webinar featuring Alan Lightman, Ph.D. in conversation with Dacher Keltner, Ph.D.

REGISTER: www.bit.ly/LightmanFANWebinar

BONUS AFTER-HOURS EVENT: Attendees who purchase a copy of *The Miraculous from the Material* from FAN's partner bookseller The Book Stall are invited to attend an AFTER-HOURS event hosted by Lightman that will start immediately after the webinar. Details on the webinar registration page.

Nature is capable of extraordinary phenomena. Standing in awe of those phenomena, we experience a feeling of connection to the cosmos. For acclaimed physicist and novelist **Alan Lightman, Ph.D.**, just as remarkable is that all of what we see around us—soap bubbles, scarlet ibises, shooting stars—are made of the same material stuff and obey the same rules and laws. This is what Lightman calls “spiritual materialism,” the belief that we can embrace spiritual experiences without letting go of our scientific worldview.

Pairing 36 beautiful, full-color photos evoking some of nature’s most awe-inspiring phenomena with accessible and lyrical personal essays, *The Miraculous from the Material: Understanding the Wonders of Nature* explores the fascinating science underlying the natural world. Why do rainbows make an arc? Why does a particular waterfall at Yosemite National Park sometimes glow like it’s on fire? How does a hummingbird fly? The world has so many things to marvel at—and the science is just as fascinating.

Lightman’s imagination travels from the world of atoms and molecules to the animal kingdom, from places like Ha Long Bay, Vietnam and the Grand Canyon out to the solar system and beyond, illuminating the majesty of the cosmos and the remarkable science behind it. *The Miraculous from the Material* is a stunning, soaring ode to the beauty and wonder around us.

Lightman will be in conversation with **Dacher Keltner, Ph.D.** (FAN '16, '23), professor of psychology at the University of California at Berkeley, director of the Berkeley Social Interaction Lab, and faculty director of UC Berkeley’s Greater Good Science Center. His research focuses the biological and evolutionary origins of compassion, awe, love, and beauty, as well as power, social class, and inequality. Keltner is the author of *The Power Paradox: How We Gain and Lose Influence*, as well as the bestseller *Born to Be Good: The Science of a Meaningful Life* and *The Compassionate Instinct*. His latest book is 2023’s *Awe: The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How It Can Transform Your Life*.

This event suitable for youth 12+. It will be recorded and available on FAN’s website and YouTube channel.

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