

The Social Brain

Michael S. Gazzaniga

In this provocative and readable book, Gazzaniga argues that the brain is more a social entity than a psychological one. Rather than being an indivisible whole, as was once believed, it is a vast confederacy of relatively independent "modules," each of which processes information and activates its own thoughts and actions. A special module in the left hemisphere interprets this activity by creating personal beliefs about our disparate behaviors, thus helping each one of us develop our own sense of consciousness. He describes the remarkable studies that led to this theory — from the early work with his mentor Roger Sperry, in which they identified two separate mental systems in "split-brain" patients, to his present cutting-edge research on brain modules. Taking us on a fascinating journey into operating room and laboratory, he vividly demonstrates how the brain's very structure affects how we think, learn, remember, feel and relate to the world. —from the book

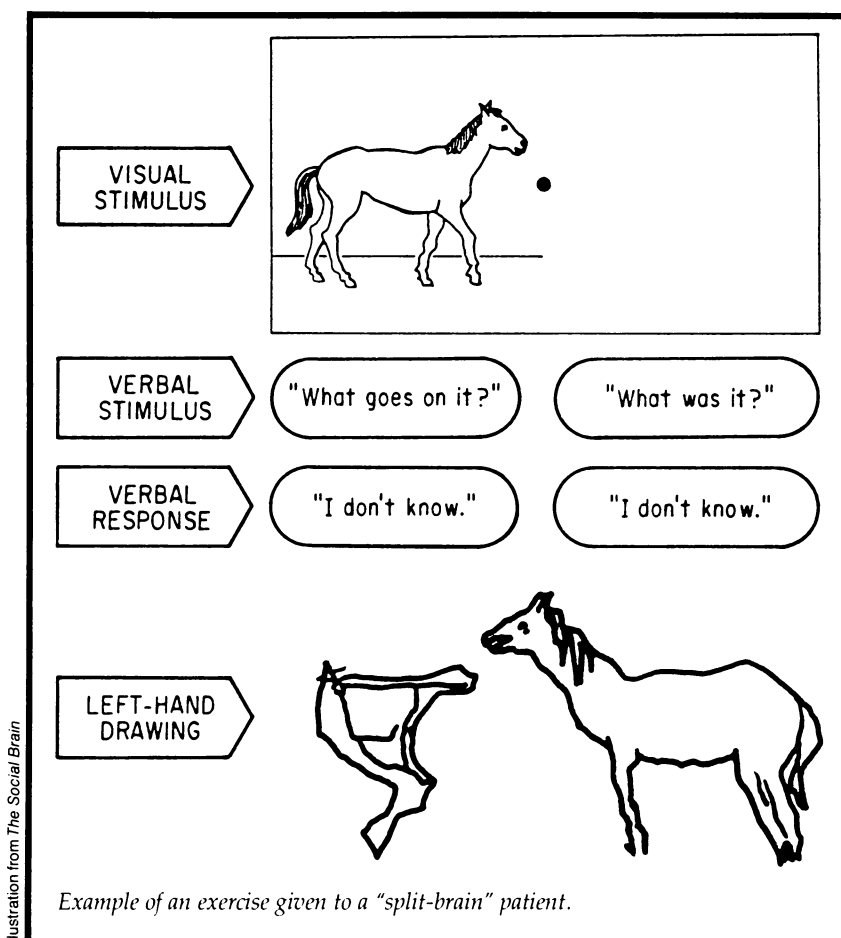
Basic Books, 1985, 219 pages,
8½" x 5¾", hardcover, \$17.95

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By Chet Raymo

In the visionary yet intimate tradition of Carl Sagan and Lewis Thomas, *The Soul of the Night* joins science to the deeper, *personal* concerns of philosophy. It is an astronomer's odyssey through the heavens, bonding the glorious, mysterious phenomena of the night sky to the workings of the human mind and psyche. It is an exploration of how the stars reinforce our humanity, one that moves through the realms of mythology, literature, religion, history and anthropology for its inspiration. Through the lyrical prose of a stargazer, the reader will experience and learn — intellectually and viscerally — of black holes, galaxies, constellations, comets, the moon, the nature of matter, the Big Bang of creation . . . the pattern of the universe and our place in all of it. Illustrated with striking woodcuts. — *from the book*

Prentice-Hall Press, 1985, 9" x 6", 209 pages, hardcover, \$15.95

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A new approach to man's experience of the stars

By Norman Davidson

Both practical and imaginative in its approach and unique among modern works on astronomy, this book makes an important connection between human beings, their culture and the realm of stars. It returns to first principles and emphasizes the experience of the naked-eye observer — an experience of immediate reality that has been neglected in this age of radio telescopes and spacecraft. The book will appeal to people who observe the sky and its phenomena and who wish to understand the world of stars as a significant part of their greater environment. It will also interest the observational astronomer who wishes to take a fresh, intimate look at the movements and appearances of the stars. By treating observational astronomy as a part of culture and as a creative science in itself, the author shows how mythology, literature, history, psychology and philosophy all play their parts in the unfolding of the story of the stars. — *from the book*

Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1985, 8½" x 5½", 237 pages, hardcover, \$25.00

HEAVEN'S BREATH

A NATURAL HISTORY OF THE WIND

By LYELL WATSON

A fascinating survey of the geography, biology, physics, sociology, physiology, psychology, history and philosophy of the wind. Watson shows how winds provide the circulatory and nervous systems of the planet, distributing warmth, making soil and generally bringing the world to life. There are chapters on wind sensitivity, including the creation of a new Beaufort scale of wind forces, an entertaining dictionary of winds, and a look at how the *föhn*, *mistral*, *sirocco*, *Santa Ana* and other "ill winds" alter human body chemistry and psychology to an extent that can lead to disease, suicide and even murder. The historical section recalls how trade winds have shaped imperial destinies and how the dramatic winds of war determined the outcome of the conflict between the Greeks and Persians, the Mongol invasion of Japan and the fate of the Spanish Armada.

"For wind, which is nothing but a lot of air wrapped around some microscopic inclusions, packs a surprising punch and strikes some sneaky blows. . . . The process began at the Tacoma Narrows Bridge on the morning of November 8th with a wind of sixty kilometres an hour, just strong enough to blow foam off the tops of waves and make the local fishermen think twice about going out. But this was sufficient to get under the roadway of the central section of the bridge and start it oscillating up and down. Before long, it began to 'gallop' . . . sending frightened drivers fleeing on foot from their abandoned, but by no means stationary, cars.

This lengthwise deformation continued for two hours, until the wind increased slightly to sixty-seven kilometres and introduced a new factor into the equation. The bridge began to twist, turning the roadway through forty-five degrees like a corkscrew, spilling cars down into the Sound. The structure had developed a 'Karman Vortex,' which is the engineering equivalent of hysteria.

Quite independently of the wind, the bridge began to excite itself, until the wavelength of movement was exactly equal to the width of the roadway, setting up a resonance that coincided with the structure's own natural frequency. Three hours after the wind and movement began, the bridge collapsed into the waters far below." —from the book

Wm. Morrow & Co., 1984, 384 pages, 9½" x 6½", hardcover, \$19.95

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