

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

SCIENCE NEWS

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A Factor
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Time's Arrow AND ARCHIMEDES' POINT



Why is the future so different from the past? Why does the past affect the future and not the other way around? What does quantum mechanics really tell us about the world? In this important and accessible book, Huw Price sheds fascinating new light on some of the great mysteries of modern physics and connects them in a wholly original way.

Price begins with the mystery of the arrow of time. Why, for example, does disorder always increase, as required by the second law of thermodynamics? He shows that for over a century, most physicists have thought about these problems the wrong way. Misled by the human perspective from within time, which distorts and exaggerates the differences between past and future, they have fallen victim to what Price calls the "double standard fallacy": Proposed explanations of the difference between the past and the future rely on a distinction that was slipped in at the beginning by, physicists who themselves treated the past and future differently. To avoid this fallacy, Price argues, we need to imagine a point outside time—an Archimedean "view from nowhere"—from which to observe time in an unbiased way.

Offering a lively criticism of many leading physicists, including Richard Feynman and Stephen Hawking, Price shows that this fallacy remains common in physics today.

Price then turns to the greatest mystery of modern physics, the meaning of quantum theory. He argues that in missing the Archimedean viewpoint, modern physics has missed a radical and attractive solution to many of the apparent paradoxes of quantum physics.

Time's Arrow and Archimedes' Point presents an innovative and controversial view of time and contemporary physics. In this exciting book, Price urges physicists, philosophers, and anyone else who has ever pondered the mysteries of time to look at the world from the fresh perspective of Archimedes' point and gain a deeper understanding of ourselves, the universe around us, and our own place in time.

—from Oxford University Press

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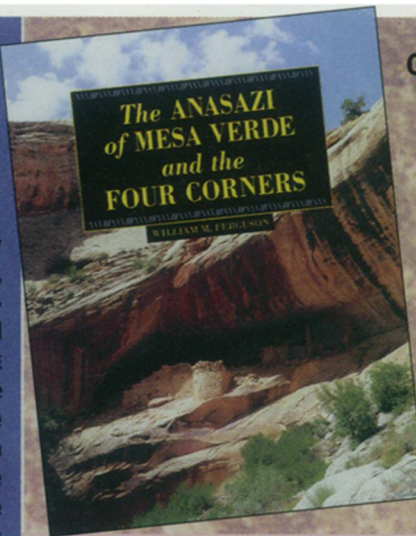
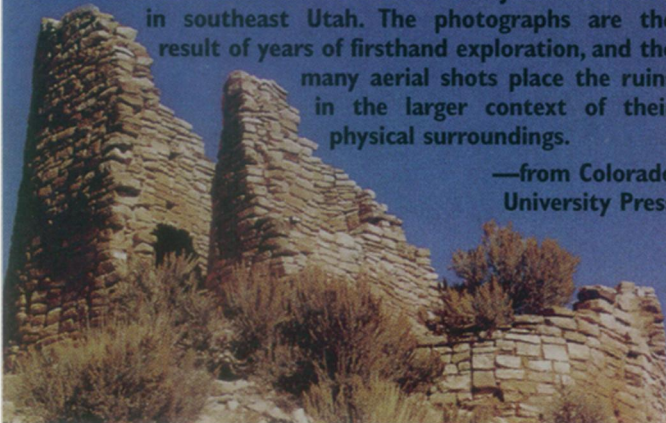
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The spectacular ruins of the U.S. Southwest are the legacy of one of North America's most advanced pre-Columbian civilizations, the Anasazi. Today, nowhere is the Anasazi's presence felt more keenly than in Mesa Verde National Park and the Four Corners region of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah, where thousands of ancient cliff dwellings, pueblos, and rock art panels can be found.

What is known about the Anasazi people comes primarily from the study and analysis of their architecture, pottery, rock art, and other artifacts, as well as from their descendants, the modern Pueblo Indians. Combining regional maps, striking photographs, and an engaging narrative, *THE ANASAZI OF MESA VERDE AND THE FOUR CORNERS* explores Mesa Verde National Park in detail, while also presenting the more remote and less accessible ruins of the San Juan River basin in southeast Utah. The photographs are the result of years of firsthand exploration, and the many aerial shots place the ruins in the larger context of their physical surroundings.

—from Colorado University Press



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