The Triumph of Uncertainty

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The Triumph of Uncertainty

Science and Self in the Postmodern Age

ALFRED I. TAUBER

“Tauber is well qualified, I would hazard to say uniquely qualified, to relate the growing pains and false starts of the developing science of immunology – his insights and perceptions penetrate to the core of the subjects covered. This book brings its intellectual message as a product of the writer’s quest for self-examination and personal understanding, a revelation of the doctor-scientist-philosopher as a young man viewed from the elevation of his maturity.”

IRUN COHEN, Professor Emeritus of Immunology, The Weizmann Institute of Science

“Fred Tauber has written a brilliant book. At once autobiography, intellectual history, and theory of immunology, Tauber focuses less on self/nonself discriminations than on the symbiotic relationship between antibodies (anti-foreign bodies) and antigens (antibody generators). But it is not only Tauber’s original ideas about immunology that matter. What also makes The Triumph of Uncertainty memorable is its personal origins. Anyone contemplating a career in medical science should read this book. So too should seasoned immunologists, and all clinician charged with explaining immune responses to unsettled patients.”

A. DAVID NAPIER, Professor of Medical Anthropology, University College London and author of The Age of Immunology; Conceiving a Future in an Alienating World

“While Tauber’s book is intensely personal, it yet manages to break new philosophical ground while displaying varied interdisciplinary scholarship.”

SAHOTA SARKAR, Professor of Philosophy and Integrative Biology, University of Texas at Austin

“Triumph of Uncertainty can be seen as a modern ‘Guide for the Perplexed,’ for most of us are indeed perplexed and confused. Beyond recognizing the constitutive nature of uncertainty, both natural and personal, Tauber suggests that an internal moral compass must guide us.”

From the Foreword by SCOTT F. GILBERT, Professor Emeritus of Biology, Swarthmore College

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alfred I. Tauber, Professor of Philosophy, emeritus and Zoltan Kohn Professor of Medicine, emeritus at Boston University, has published extensively on the theoretical development of immunology, contemporary science studies, medical ethics, and psychoanalysis. His latest books include Immunity, the Evolution of an Idea (Oxford 2017) and Requiem for the Ego: Freud and the Origins of Postmodernism (Stanford 2013).