



## From Eros to Gaia

*By Freeman Dyson*

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The author of *Disturbing the Universe* presents a selection of essays that include discussions of his early fascination with science and space, his contemporary analyses of the politics of "smart" weapons, and more.

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## From Eros to Gaia By Freeman Dyson Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

Migration to other planets as a means to ensure human survival . . . The storage of garbage and nuclear wastes in outer space . . . An international reforestation program to restore climatic equilibrium. These are some of the proposals set forth by Dyson ( *Disturbing the Universe* ) in a challenging collection of essays, lectures and reviews spanning six decades. Urging the abolition of sea-launched cruise missiles, Dyson credits Russian leaders with sincerity in their desire for drastic disarmament. He pens cautionary tales illustrating the human frailties of scientists, and condemns as "bad scientifically" the Supercolliding Superconductor, a proposed \$8 billion machine for high-energy physics research. In a sketch written at the age of nine, he depicts an astronomer tracking Eros, a minor planet that revolves 180 million miles from the Sun. Along with articles on quantum field theory and the mystery of unaccounted-for carbon in the biosphere, there are tributes to Richard Feynman and Paul Dirac, a travel sketch on Armenia and Dyson's proposed 60-year program for space science, including manned missions to Mars.

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From Library Journal

Thirty-five essays, book reviews, lectures, and even a science fiction short story written at age ten make up this collection spanning Dyson's career as writer and physicist. "Instead of history, I give you anecdotes. Instead of analysis, I give you opinions," writes Dyson in the essay "Strategic Bombing in World War 2 and Today: Has Anything Changed?" This aptly describes the whole collection. The pieces, which date from the 1950s to 1990, are reprinted from books and articles, and they are presented with little revision or updating. Readers will find some duplication in subject matter. Recurring themes include Dyson's opinion that the trend toward "big science" is squeezing out worthy, cost-effective, smaller-scale projects in physics, astronomy, and space exploration; that intellectual mavericks make more stimulating creative colleagues than many of the Ph.D.'s cranked out by academia; and that science must not lose its connection with humanity and the arts. Appropriate for public libraries. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 12/91 . -- Laurie Tynan, Montgomery Cty.

*Norristown P.L., Pa.*

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From Kirkus Reviews

Dyson (Physics/Princeton's Institute for Advanced Studies; *Weapons and Hope*, 1984, etc.) cleans house with this stimulating collection of 35 articles, lectures, and essays on science and the future of humanity--less focused, by necessity, than his earlier works, but with something to satisfy every Dyson fan. The author's love of both science and literature has flourished during his long career--as evidenced by these compelling discussions of such wide-ranging topics as the underlying forces that guide scientific research; the future of physics; science education for children and adults; the ritualization of nuclear defense; the effects of increased globalization on human evolution; the interactive relationship between pollution and vegetation; and the value and potential of the emerging Gaia philosophy. Using as bookends his own first attempt at science fiction at the age of nine (inspired by the close approach near Earth in 1931 of the asteroid Eros), and a series of lectures on the "ecology" of scientific projects, Dyson re-creates bits and pieces of a six-decades-long train of thought on many of the important scientific discoveries of the 20th century; how the sort of research that leads to such discoveries is best encouraged; and how scientific breakthroughs can best benefit humanity. Much else is tossed in, from more technical articles written for *Scientific American* to book reviews, personal recollections, and predictions for the future. Nevertheless, no matter what the topic, Dyson's passion for humanity, his guarded hopes for the future, and his belief in the saving grace of the

scientific pursuit of truth illuminate his writing. Together, these essays deliver the intellectual and moral punch that Dyson's readers expect, and offer an edifying wrap-up of an exceptional scientific and literary career. -- Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

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The event that you get from From Eros to Gaia is the more deep you searching the information that hide inside words the more you get considering reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to know but From Eros to Gaia giving you joy feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood by anyone who read this because the author of this publication is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go together with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having this From Eros to Gaia instantly.

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