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# The God Particle: If the Universe Is the Answer, What Is the Question?

*By Leon Lederman, Dick Teresi*



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**A fascinating tour of particle physics from Nobel Prize winner Leon Lederman.**

At the root of particle physics is an invincible sense of curiosity. Leon Lederman embraces this spirit of inquiry as he moves from the Greeks' earliest scientific observations to Einstein and beyond to chart this unique arm of scientific study. His survey concludes with the Higgs boson, nicknamed the God Particle, which scientists hypothesize will help unlock the last secrets of the subatomic universe, quarks and all—it's the dogged pursuit of this almost mystical entity that inspires Lederman's witty and accessible history.



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### **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

The "God particle" of the title is Lederman's term for what other physicists call a Higgs boson--a hypothetical particle that might hold a key to the subatomic world of quarks and leptons. To find out if a Higgs boson indeed exists, this Nobel laureate in physics conceived of the Superconducting Super Collider, which, if constructed, would be the world's most powerful particle accelerator. Writing with Teresi (coauthor of *The Three-Pound Universe*), Lederman first surveys moments of discovery from Newton to Einstein in a breezy, folksy style that can be annoying ("Galileo was an irascible sort of guy . . . He could be a pain in the ass"). This style, however, serves the reader well when Lederman and Teresi enter the complexities of subatomic physics, clarifying the search for squarks and winos, grand unified theories, superstrings and dark matter. \$100,000 ad/promo; author tour.

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From Library Journal

Nobel Laureate and physicist Lederman is funny, clever, entertaining, and highly accessible as he charts the course of experimental physics from 430 B.C. to the planned opening of the Superconducting Supercollider (SSC), of which he is one of the principal architects. This book might be seen, in fact, as a sort of advertisement for the SSC, answering as it does the question, What is the SSC for? Even allowing for Lederman's open bias toward big physics, his book is a delight to read and absorb, far more accessible than most books about contemporary physics, because it is rooted in the experimental; the "God particle" of the title is the missing link of experimental physics, just as this book is the missing link between a complex world and the general reader. By contrast, Amit Goswami (physics, Univ. of Oregon) is interested in the metaphysical, or perhaps the meta-metaphysical. Drawing heavily on New Age and Eastern philosophical concepts, he attempts to demonstrate that the world as we know it is but a construct of human consciousness; mind, not matter, is the stuff of which we are made. Where Lederman explains for the delight of knowing, Goswami explains only to support his thesis, making for a much more abstract and strange book. All but the converted will find this heavy sledding. The books are thus not interchangeable: Lederman will appeal to those interested in learning about science and the physical world, Goswami to those seeking a hip confirmation of their own sense of self-enlightenment.

- *Mark Shelton, Athens, Ohio*

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Review

"One of the clearest, most enjoyable new science books in years... explains the entire history of physics and cosmology. En route, you'll laugh so hard you won't realize how much you are learning." -- *San Francisco Examiner*

### **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Catherine Williams:**

Often the book *The God Particle: If the Universe Is the Answer, What Is the Question?* has a lot info on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was published by the very

famous author. The writer makes some research previous to write this book. This book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after looking over this book.

**Sarita Springer:**

Why? Because this The God Particle: If the Universe Is the Answer, What Is the Question? is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will zap you with the secret this inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such awesome way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book get such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking way. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I have been you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

**Dennis Johnson:**

Your reading 6th sense will not betray anyone, why because this The God Particle: If the Universe Is the Answer, What Is the Question? reserve written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book which might be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written inside good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and publishing skill only for eliminate your hunger then you still skepticism The God Particle: If the Universe Is the Answer, What Is the Question? as good book but not only by the cover but also with the content. This is one publication that can break don't determine book by its protect, so do you still needing yet another sixth sense to pick this specific!? Oh come on your examining sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

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