Edgar Allan Poe—highlighting his fascination and feuds with science We all think we know Poe—the most popular American writer around the world, dissolve puzzle-maker, pioneer of detective fiction, and author of haunting, atmospheric verse. But what if there was another side to the man who wrote “The Raven” and “The Fall of the House of Usher”? In The Reason for the Darkness of the Night: Edgar Allan Poe and the Forging of American Science, John Tresh offers a bold new life of one of the nineteenth century’s most iconic writers. Shining a spotlight on an era when the lines between speculation, entertainment, and scientific inquiry were blurred, Tresh reveals Poe as much more than a science fiction writer—in fact, he was an avid commentator on scientific and technical developments, publishing and hustling in literary scenes that also hosted lectures and demonstrations by the era’s most prominent scientists, semi-scientists, and pseudo-intellectual rogues. As one newspaper put it, “Mr. Poe is not merely a man of science—not merely a poet—not merely a man of letters. He is all combined; and perhaps he is something more.” Beginning with his training in mathematics and engineering at West Point, and taking us through the tumultuous years that followed, Tresh shows that Poe lived and thought surrounded by science—and that many of his most renowned works can best be understood in his company. He cast doubt on perceived certainties even as he hungered for knowledge, and at the end of his life, he delivered a dazzling lecture on the origins of the universe that would win the admiration of twentieth-century physicists. Throughout, he lived and suffered for his ideas, remaining a figure of brilliant contradiction: he gleefully exposed the hoaxes of the era’s scientific fraudsters even as he perpetrated hoaxes himself. The Reason for the Darkness of the Night is an essential new portrait of a writer whose life is synonymous with mystery, and an entertaining, erudite tour of the world of American science just as it was beginning to come into its own. New Zealand businessman Robert Laidlaw wrote this little booklet, a distillation of his discovery of a credible Christianity, for his nearly 3000 employees, and now shares it with a larger audience. Have you ever wonder what is the reason for your existence in this life? Why you're here on earth? What is your purpose in this life? How can you make a difference and achieve your life goals? In this book, you'll find the answer to these questions. This book is an inspiring, practical, and instructional step-by-step guide, taking you on a journey to extracting and launching your dream career or business into motion. Through real-life examples and proven strategies, you'll discover how to: - Find It! Discover and define your unique purpose or calling on earth. - Plan It! Clarify your vision and create your plan of action. - Do It! Execute the plan for your dream career or business. - Grow It! Connect with other like-minded individuals who support and hold you accountable for growing and advancing your venture. Your challenging and provocative book argues against much contemporary orthodoxy in philosophy and the social sciences by showing why objectivity in the domain of ethics is really no different from the objectivity of scientific knowledge. Many philosophers and social scientists have challenged the idea that we act for objectively authoritative reasons. Jean Hampton takes up the challenge by undermining two central assumptions of this contemporary orthodoxy: that one can understand instrumental reasons without appeal to objective authority, and that the adoption of the scientific world view requires no such appeal. In the course of the book Jean Hampton examines moral realism, the general nature of reason and norms, internalism and externalism, instrumental reasoning, and the expected utility model of practical reasoning. The book is sure to prove to be a seminal work in the theory of rationality that will be read by a broad swathe of philosophers and social scientists.

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