



A New Science of Life: The Hypothesis of Morphic Resonance

By Rupert Sheldrake

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Why do many phenomena defy the explanations of conventional biology and physics? For instance, when laboratory rats in one place have learned how to navigate a new maze, why do rats elsewhere seem to learn it more easily? Rupert Sheldrake describes this process as *morphic resonance*: the past forms and behaviors of organisms, he argues, influence organisms in the present through direct connections across time and space. Calling into question many of our fundamental concepts about life and consciousness, Sheldrake reinterprets the regularities of nature as being more like habits than immutable laws.

The first edition of *A New Science of Life* created a furor when it appeared, provoking the outrage of the old-guard scientific community and the approbation of the new. The British journal *Nature* called it "the best candidate for burning there has been for many years." A lively debate ensued, as researchers devised experiments testing Sheldrake's hypothesis, including some involving millions of people through the medium of television. These developments are recorded in this revised and expanded edition.

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Review

"As far-reaching in its implications as Darwin's theory of evolution."

(*Brain/Mind Bulletin*)

"An important scientific inquiry into the nature of biological and physical reality."

(*New Scientist*)

"Sheldrake is a Cambridge-trained research biologist whose modest proposals. . . have upset scientific orthodoxy"

(*Utne Reader*)

"An immensely challenging and stimulating hypothesis, which proposes an unorthodox approach to evolution."

(**Arthur Koestler**, author of *The Lotus and the Robot* and *The Ghost in the Machine*)

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