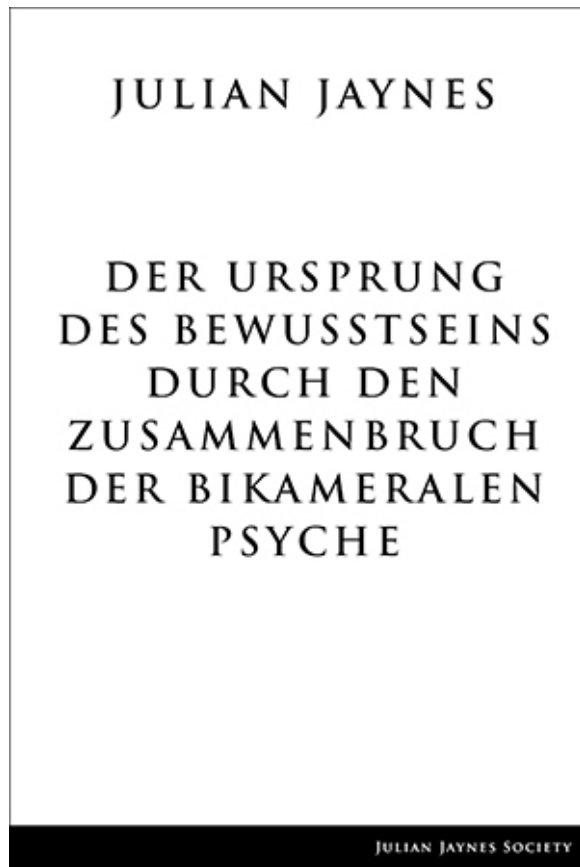


# Der Ursprung des Bewußtseins durch den Zusammenbruch der Bikameralen Psyche

Julian Jaynes



Im Zentrum dieser wegweisenden Arbeit steht die revolutionäre Idee, dass das menschliche Bewusstsein nicht in der tierischen Evolution begann, sondern ein erlernter Prozess war, der durch Katastrophen vor nur dreitausend Jahren aus einer halluzinatorischen Mentalität hervorgegangen ist und sich noch entwickelt. Die Implikationen dieses wissenschaftlichen Paradigmas erstrecken sich auf praktisch jeden Aspekt unserer Psychologie, unserer Geschichte, unserer Kultur, unserer

Religion — in der Tat unserer Zukunft. In den Worten des Rezensenten ist es „ein demütigender Text, der die meisten von uns, die ihren Lebensunterhalt durch Denken verdienen, daran erinnert, wie viel Denken noch zu tun ist.“

## LOB FÜR DIE THEORIE VON JULIAN JAYNES

„Wenn Julian Jaynes... spekuliert, dass bis Ende des zweiten Jahrtausends v. Männer hatten kein Bewusstsein, gehorchten aber automatisch den Stimmen der Götter. Wir sind erstaunt, aber gezwungen, dieser bemerkenswerten These durch alle bestätigenden Beweise zu folgen.“

— John Updike, *The New Yorker*

„Die Ideen dieses Buches und dieses Mannes sind möglicherweise die einflussreichsten, um nicht zu sagen umstrittenen der zweiten Hälfte des 20. Jahrhunderts. Es macht ganze Bücherregale überflüssig.“

— William Harrington, *Columbus Dispatch*

„Nachdem ich gerade *The Origin of Consciousness* beendet habe, fühle ich mich wie Keats Cortez, der auf den Pazifik starrt, oder zumindest wie die frühen Rezensenten von Darwin oder Freud. Ich bin mir nicht ganz sicher, was ich von diesem neuen Territorium halten soll. aber seine Weite liegt vor mir und ich bin erschrocken über seine Kraft.“

— Edward Profitt, *Commonweal*

„Er ist so verblüffend wie Freud in *The Interpretation of Dreams*, und Jaynes ist ebenso geschickt darin, eine neue Sicht auf bekanntes menschliches Verhalten zu erzwingen.“

— Raymond Headlee, *American Journal of Psychiatry*

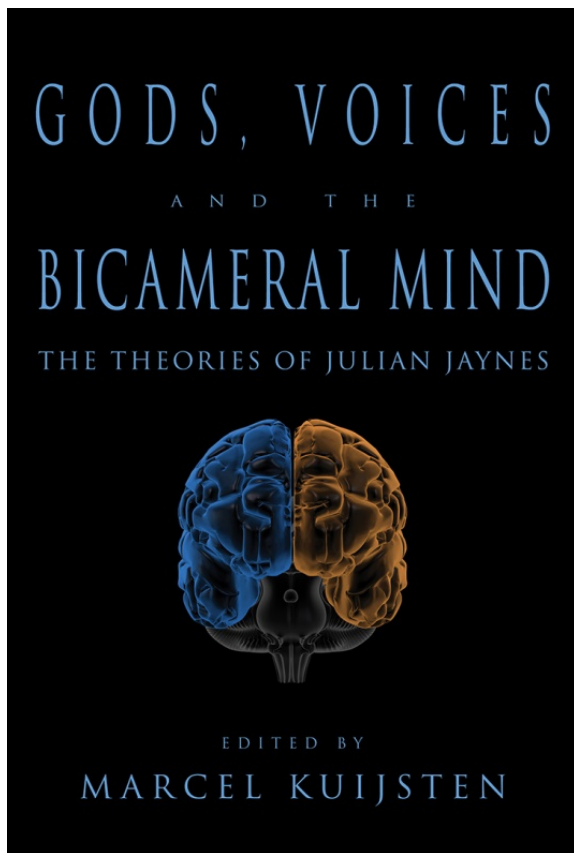
„Das Gewicht des ursprünglichen Denkens in [diesem Buch] ist so groß, dass es mich für das Wohlergehen des Autors beunruhigt: Der menschliche Geist ist nicht dafür gebaut, eine solche Belastung zu tragen.“

— D.C. Stove, *Encounter*

**AUCH AUS DER JULIAN JAYNES GESELLSCHAFT**

**Gods, Voices, and the Bicameral Mind:  
The Theories of Julian Jaynes**

**Edited by Marcel Kuijsten**

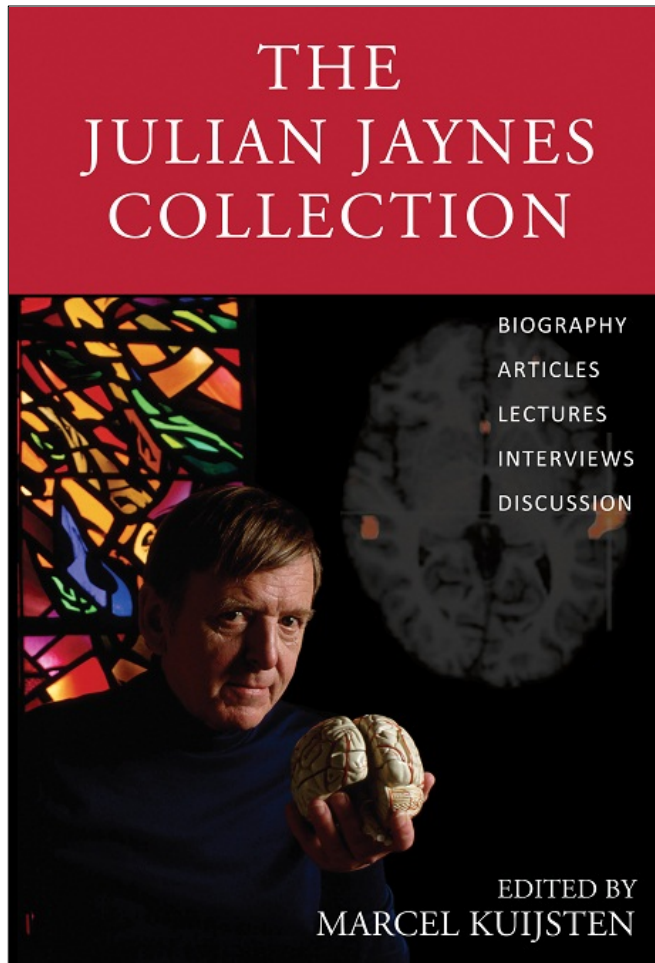


Does consciousness inevitably arise in any sufficiently complex brain? Although widely accepted, this view — inherited from Darwin’s theory of evolution — is supported by surprisingly little evidence. Offering an alternate view of the history of the human mind, Julian Jaynes’s ideas challenge our preconceptions of not only the origin of the modern mind, but the origin of gods and religion, the nature of mental illness, and the future potential of consciousness. The tremendous explanatory power of Jaynes’s ideas force us to reevaluate much of what we thought we knew about human history.

*Gods, Voices, and the Bicameral Mind* both explains Julian Jaynes’s theory and explores a wide range of related topics such as the ancient Dark Age, the nature of dreams and the birth of Greek tragedy, poetic inspiration, the significance of hearing voices in both the ancient and modern world, the development of consciousness in children, the transition to consciousness in early Tibet, the relationship of consciousness and metaphorical language, and how Jaynes’s ideas compare to those of other thinkers.

# The Julian Jaynes Collection

Edited by Marcel Kuijsten



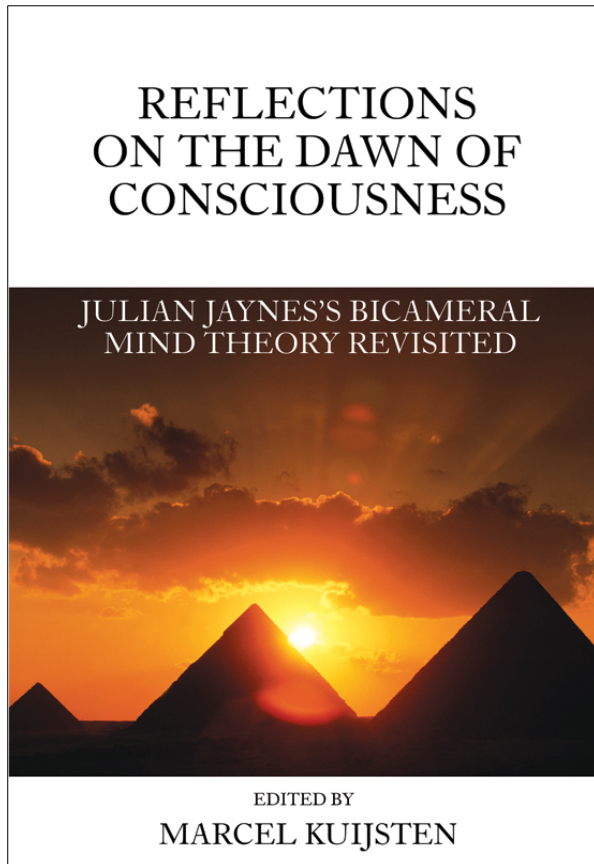
Princeton University psychologist Julian Jaynes’s revolutionary theory on the origin of consciousness or the “modern mind” remains as relevant and thought-provoking as when it was first proposed. Supported by recent discoveries in neuroscience, Jaynes’s ideas force us to rethink conventional views of human history and psychology, and have profound implications for many aspects of modern life.

Included in this volume are rare and never before seen articles, lectures, interviews, and in-depth discussions

that both clear up misconceptions as well as extend Jaynes’s theory into new areas such as the nature of the self, dreams, emotions, art, music, therapy, and the consequences and future of consciousness. Expanded to include a new, never-before-seen 30-page radio interview with Julian Jaynes.

# Reflections on the Dawn of Consciousness: Julian Jaynes's Bicameral Mind Theory Revisited

Edited by Marcel Kuijsten



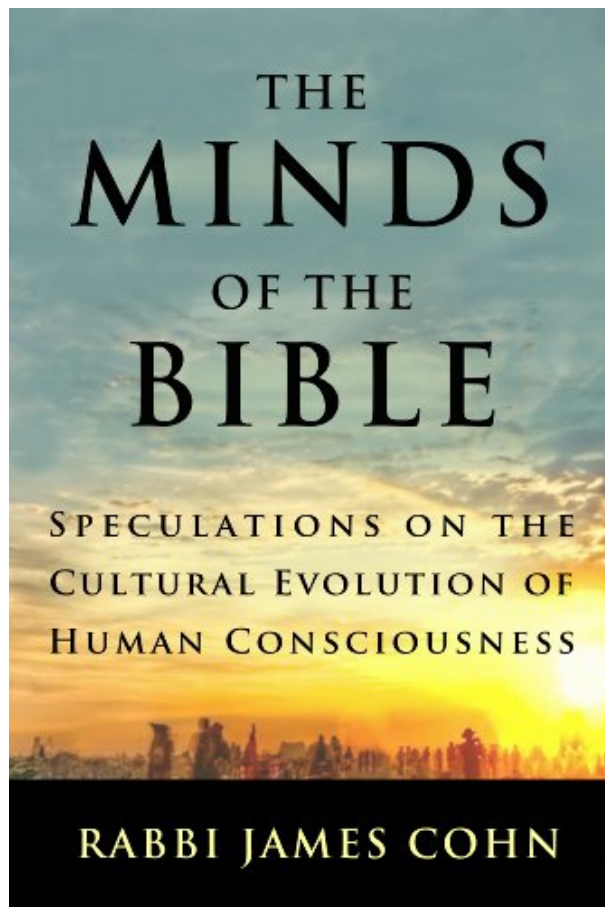
Why are gods and idols ubiquitous throughout the ancient world? What is the relationship of consciousness and language? How is it that oracles came to influence entire nations such as Greece? If consciousness arose far back in human evolution, how can it so easily be altered in hypnosis and “possession”? Is modern schizophrenia a vestige of an earlier mentality?

These are just some of the difficult questions addressed by Julian Jaynes's influential and controversial theory of the origin of subjective consciousness or the “modern mind.” This book includes an in-depth

biography of Julian Jaynes, essays by Jaynes, and the discussion and analysis of Jaynes's theory from a variety of perspectives such as clinical psychology, philosophy, neuroscience, anthropology, linguistics, and ancient history.

# **The Minds of the Bible: Speculations on the Cultural Evolution of Human Consciousness**

**By Rabbi James Cohn**



Two developments in the history of the Bible are deeply related, and not merely coincidental. One is the lamentation of the loss of the experience of hearing God’s voice. The other is the rise of the language of introspection: an interiorized subjective dialogue with oneself

In our own time, we are acculturated from infancy on, to understand our mental life as a narratized interior mind-space in which we introspect in a ceaseless conversation with “ourselves.” Our ancestors, however, were acculturated to understand their mental life in terms of obedient responses to auditory prompts, which they projected outwards as the

external voice of God. Although these “bicameral” people could think and act, they had no awareness of choices or of choosing — or of awareness itself.

In 1976, Julian Jaynes proposed that that as recently as 3,000 years ago, human beings were non-introspective. Jaynes claimed that one could trace this cultural transformation over the course of a scant millennium by analyzing the literature of the Hebrew Scriptures (“Old Testament,” OT). This book tests Jaynes’s assertions by examining the

OT text in Hebrew, as seen through the lens of the Documentary Hypothesis and modern critical historical scholarship.

Did the writers of the oldest biblical texts have words in their cultural lexicon to correspond to our words such as “mind” or “imagination” or “belief?” Or do the translations into English that employ such mentalistic words (such as the King James Bible) tell us more about the minds of the translators than the minds of the biblical authors?

In sharp contrast to the early OT texts, the later texts of the OT display a lexicon of profound interiority. The writers have become acculturated to experience their mental life as a rich introspective consciousness, full of internal mind-talk and “narratization,” and perceiving their own actions as the result, not of obedience to an external voice, but of self-authorized, internal decisions.

This study includes observations about emerging understandings of the neurology of auditory hallucinations, and supports Jaynes’s idea that while the brain’s structure has changed little in three millennia, culture can and will determine whether a child’s mental life is bicameral or introspectively conscious.

For more on Julian Jaynes’s theory of the origin of consciousness and the bicameral mind, please visit the Julian Jaynes Society at [www.julianjaynes.org](http://www.julianjaynes.org).