



Elementary Particles and the Laws of Physics: The 1986 Dirac Memorial Lectures

By Richard P. Feynman, Steven Weinberg

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Developing a theory that seamlessly combines relativity and quantum mechanics, the most important conceptual breakthroughs in twentieth century physics, has proved to be a difficult and ongoing challenge. This book details how two distinguished physicists and Nobel laureates have explored this theme in two lectures given in Cambridge, England, in 1986 to commemorate the famous British physicist Paul Dirac. Given for nonspecialists and undergraduates, the talks transcribed in Elementary Particles and the Laws of Physics focus on the fundamental problems of physics and the present state of our knowledge. Professor Feynman examines the nature of antiparticles, and in particular the relationship between quantum spin and statistics. Professor Weinberg speculates on how Einstein's theory of gravitation might be reconciled with quantum theory in the final law of physics. Highly accessible, deeply thought provoking, this book will appeal to all those interested in the development of modern physics.

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Review

"...a book that all physicists will be pleased to have on their shelves, and one that will surely stimulate aspiring theoretical physicists." New Scientist

About the Author

Richard Feynman was born on May 11, 1918 in Brooklyn, NY. He attended MIT and was awarded his Ph.D. from Princeton University. During World War II, he participated in the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos, New Mexico. After the war, he accepted a teaching position at Cornell University, and in 1950, he accepted a position at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech). He remained there until his death in 1988.

Feynman is well-known for his work in quantum electrodynamics (QED), which won him the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1965. He also contributed to the understanding of superfluidity in liquid helium and the underlying causes of the Challenger shuttle explosion. Feynman reached popular audiences through his semi-autobiographical books, and is respected for his humor, storytelling, and bongo playing. He is considered by many to be the greatest and most popular physicist in modern times.

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