

Power Mick : **"Adieu Dieu: Psychology, Religion, and Atheism"**

A psychological analysis will be presented of the human invention of gods and the roles that organised religion play in their maintenance. Key psychological experiences that are still problematic for scientific explanation include consciousness, dreaming, and meaning-in-life, which, understandably, lead people to seek spiritual explanations. When combined with unusual experiences such as hallucinations, out-of-body experiences, and near-death-experiences, such states have convinced many of the existence of the supernatural. However, it will be argued that all of these experiences can be understood at the psychological level of explanation, which eliminates the need for supernatural explanation and which points to atheism.