



Philip K. Dick and Philosophy: Do Androids Have Kindred Spirits? (Popular Culture and Philosophy Book 63)

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Science fiction writer Philip K. Dick (1928–1982) is the giant imagination behind so much recent popular culture—both movies directly based on his writings, such as *Blade Runner* (based on the novel *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*), *Total Recall*, *Minority Report*, and *The Adjustment Bureau* plus cult favorites such as *A Scanner Darkly*, *Imposter*, *Next*, *Screamers*, and *Paycheck* and works revealing his powerful influence, such as *The Matrix* and *Inception*. With the publication in 2011 of volume 1 of *Exegesis*, his journal of spiritual visions and paranoid investigations, Dick is fast becoming a major influence in the world of popular spirituality and occult thinking.

In *Philip K. Dick and Philosophy* thirty Dick fans and professional thinkers confront the fascinating and frightening ideas raised by Dick's mind-blowing fantasies. Is there an alien world behind the everyday reality we experience? If androids can pass as human, should they be given the same consideration as humans? Do psychotics have insights into a mystical reality? Would knowledge of the future free us or enslave us? This volume will also include Dick's short story "Adjustment Team," on which *The Adjustment Bureau* is based.

Philip K. Dick and Philosophy explores the ideas of Philip K. Dick in the same way that he did: with an earnest desire to understand the truth of the world, but without falsely equating earnestness with a dry seriousness. Dick's work was replete with whimsical and absurdist presentations of the greatest challenges to reason and to humanity—paradox, futility, paranoia, and failure—and even at his darkest times he was able to keep some perspective and humor, as for example in choosing to name himself 'Horselover Fat' in VALIS at the same time as he relates his personal religious epiphanies, crises, and delusions. With the same earnest whimsy, we approach Philip K. Dick as a philosopher like ourselves—one who wrote almost entirely in thought-experiments and semi-fictional world-building, but who engaged with many of the greatest questions of philosophy throughout the Euro-American tradition.

Philip K. Dick and Philosophy has much to offer for both serious fans and those who have recently learned his name, and realized that his work has been the inspiration for several well-known and thought-provoking films. Most chapters start with one or more of the movies based on Dick's writing. From here, the authors delve deeper into the issues by bringing in philosophers' perspectives and by bringing in Dick's written work. The book invites the reader with a casual familiarity with Dick to get to know his work, and invites the reader with little familiarity with philosophy to learn more. New perspectives and challenging connections and interpretations for even the most hard-core Dick fans are also offered.

To maximize public interest, the book prominently addresses the most widely-known films, as well as those with the most significant fan followings: *Blade Runner*, *Total Recall*, *Minority Report*, *A Scanner Darkly*, and *The Adjustment Bureau*. Along with these "big five" films, a few chapters address his last novels, especially VALIS, which have a significant cult following of their own. There are also chapters which address short stories and novels which are currently planned for adaptation: *Radio Free Albemuth* (film completed, awaiting distribution), *The Man in the High Castle* (in development by Ridley Scott for BBC mini-series), and "King of the Elves" (Disney, planned for release in 2012).

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