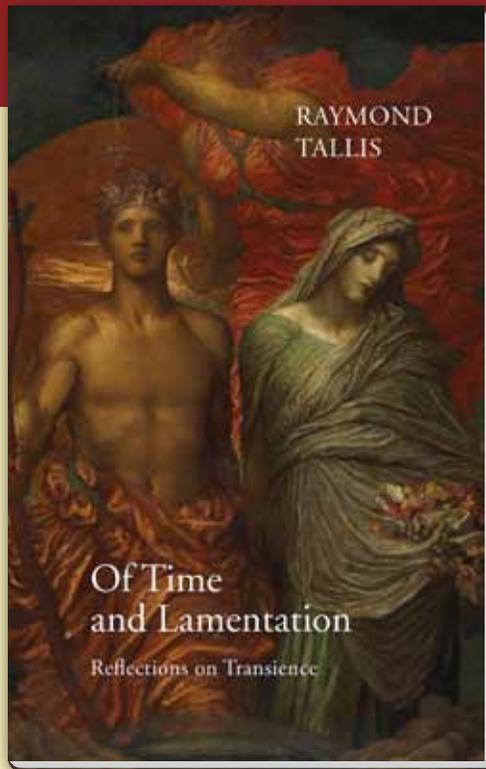


Of Time and Lamentation

Reflections on Transience

by Professor Raymond Tallis



Time's mysteries seem to resist comprehension and what remains, once the familiar metaphors are stripped away, can stretch even the most profound philosopher. In his bold and original new book, the culmination of some twenty years of thinking, writing and wondering about (and within) time, Raymond Tallis rises to this challenge, exploring the nature and meaning of time before reclaiming it from the jaws of physics...

For most of us, time is composed of mornings, afternoons and evenings and expressed in hurry, hope, longing, waiting, enduring, planning, joyful expectation and grief, and thinking about it is to meditate on our own mortality. Yet, physics has little or nothing to say about this time, the time as it is lived. The

story told by caesium clocks, quantum theory and Lorentz coordinates, Raymond Tallis argues, needs to be supplemented by one of moss on rocks, tears on faces and the long narratives of our human journey. Our temporal lives deserve a richer attention than is afforded by the equations of mathematical physics.

Divided into three parts, Of Time and Lamentation explores:

Killing Time the passage and direction of time and time travel are examined, and the relationship between mathematics and reality, and the nature of the observer, are explored.

Tensed Time each of the tenses is visited before a final chapter in which the mysterious idea of eternity is contemplated. The phenomenology of past, present and future opens the way into discussions of the elusiveness and inescapability of the present, the reality of the past, and the future, and the extent to which what has not yet happened is pre-determined.

Finding Time explores further 'the stuff' of time, instances and intervals, time and change, the relationship between objective and subjective time, time and causation, the relationship between time and our unique human freedom, and more.

For anyone who has puzzled over the nature of becoming, wondered whether time is

punctuate or continuous, or even whether time itself is real, Of Time and Lamentation will provoke and entertain. Those, like Tallis himself, who seek to find a place at which the scientific and humanistic views of humanity can be reconciled, will celebrate his placing of human consciousness at the heart of time, and his showing that we are "more than cogs in the universal clock, forced to collaborate with the very progress that pushes us towards our own midnight"

ABOUT PROFESSOR RAYMOND TALLIS

One of the world's leading intellectuals *Intelligent Life* (2009)

"He is one of the very few contemporary thinkers whom I would unequivocally call a genius." *Stuart Kelly, Scotland on Sunday, 2015*

"He is one of Britain's intellectual all-rounders... Someone who will come closer than most ever will to knowing everything" *The Independent* (2009)

Raymond Tallis is a retired physician, clinical neuroscientist and a philosopher, poet, novelist and cultural critic. He trained in medicine at Oxford University and at St Thomas' in London before going on to become Professor of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Manchester and a consultant physician from 1988-2006. During that time, he was an editor and major contributor to two key textbooks in the field and author of over 200 original scientific papers, mainly in clinical neuroscience. He has been awarded many prizes, including the Lord Cohen Gold Medal for Research into Ageing, has played a key part in developing guidelines for the care of stroke patients in the UK, and from 2011-14 was Chair, Healthcare Professionals for Assisted Dying (HPAD).

For the last decade Tallis has been a full-time writer publishing fiction, poetry, and 25 books on the philosophy of mind, philosophical anthropology, literary and cultural criticism. His most recent book *The Black Mirror. Fragments of an Obituary for Life* (2015) was praised for its philosophical depth, wit, and lyrical power. *Aping Mankind: Neuromania, Darwinitis, and the Misrepresentation of Humanity* (2010) was reissued in 2016 as a Routledge Classic.

Tallis's writing has been committed to building up a portrait of humanity that avoids both supernatural and naturalistic accounts of what we are.

As well as criticising anti-humanist simplifications of humanity, his work has celebrated the uniqueness and richness of human consciousness, human life and the human world. *Of Time and Lamentation* is his magnum opus, bringing together the many streams of his thought.