



Prehension: The Hand and the Emergence of Humanity (Hardback)

By Colin McGinn

MIT Press Ltd, United States, 2015. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. In praise of the hand: A philosopher considers the crucial role of the hand in human evolution, particularly with respect to language. McGinn is an ingenious philosopher who thinks like a laser and writes like a dream. --Steven Pinker This book is a hymn to the hand. In Prehension, Colin McGinn links questions from science to philosophical concerns to consider something that we take for granted: the importance of the hand in everything we do. Drawing on evolutionary biology, anatomy, archaeology, linguistics, psychology, and philosophy, among other disciplines, McGinn examines the role of the hand in shaping human evolution. He finds that the development of our capacity to grasp, to grip, to take hold (also known as prehension) is crucial in the emergence of Homo sapiens. The human species possesses language, rational thought, culture, and a specific affective capacity; but there was a time when our ancestors had none of these. How did we become what we so distinctively are, given our early origins? McGinn, following Darwin and others, calls the hand the source of our biological success. When our remote ancestors descended from trees,...



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