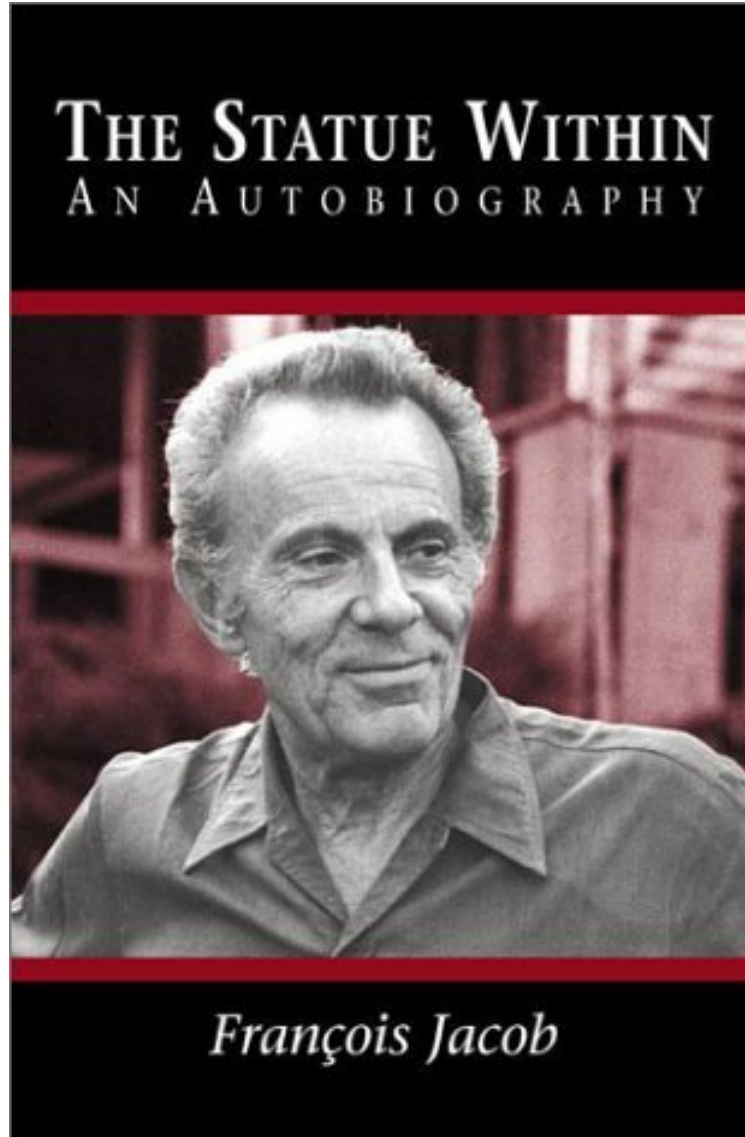


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The Statue Within: An Autobiography

Francois Jacob

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well written memoir of one of the greatest founders of modern molecular biology. I read this first as a college student and could not put it down. I really think it was transformational and was one reason I chose to pursue graduate work. He is a gifted writer and has great intellect as well as humanism. His first encounters with his own mentor Andre Lwoff are unforgettable.

In a new preface to this special edition of his critically acclaimed memoir, Francois Jacob recalls the events that brought him to Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in the early 1960's and taught him much about phage biology and the informal ways of American science. Throughout his book, Jacob demonstrates a scientist's eye for detail and a poet's instinct for the inner life, as he tells of a privileged Parisian boyhood, young love, heroism in war, and the fascination of life at the edge of scientific discovery.

From Publishers Weekly A French biologist who views science as "the most elevating . . . revolt against the incoherence of the universe," Jacob won the 1965 Nobel Prize in medicine for his work on gene regulation. This gripping, smoothly translated memoir records not only Jacob's professional achievements but seeks to reveal "the hardest kernel of his character," which he likens to an unfinished statue. Against a background of WW II and the dawn of DNA research, Jacob evokes and connects his former self—the solitary, imaginative, Parisian schoolboy, the groping adolescent and medical student, the Free French fighter in Africa and the severely wounded survivor who regained his health and discovered his vocation. Along with the intellectual ferment of the laboratory and exchanges with colleagues at international colloquia, Jacob surmises that the breadth of his personal experiences provided a philosophical urgency that contributed to his success as a scientist. A profound humanist, he describes genetic breakthroughs with the same elation as his Saharan battles and the wonder of parenthood. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal In this sensitive and thoughtful autobiography, Jacob, who won the Nobel Prize in medicine, examines the factors that formed his personality. He recounts how family, friends, infatuations, school, World War II, and his service in the Free French Army helped shape him into becoming a dedicated scientist. His work at the Pasteur Institute and collaboration with Jacques Monod provide a beautiful example of science as process: the testing of ideas in reality, the value of open international communication between researchers, and the importance of criticism. A book of wide appeal, enthusiastically recommended. Frank Reiser, Nassau Community Coll., Garden City, N.Y. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. Language Notes Text: English, French (translation)