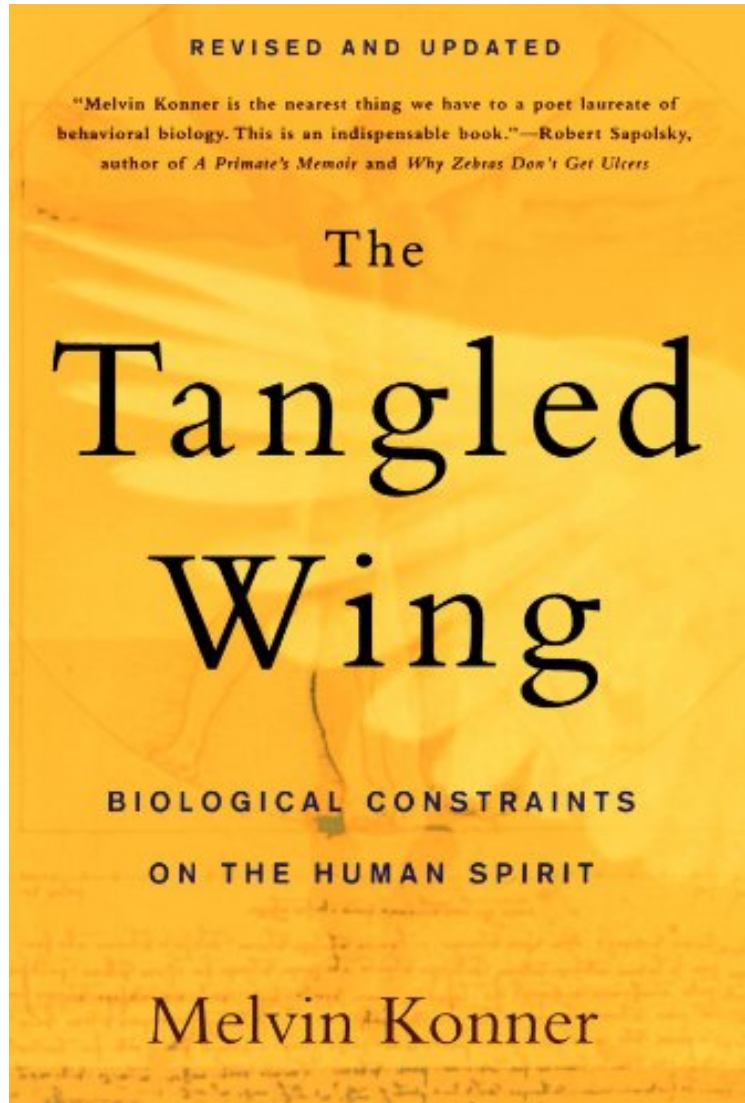


(Ebook pdf) The Tangled Wing: Biological Constraints on the Human Spirit

# The Tangled Wing: Biological Constraints on the Human Spirit

Melvin Konner

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#670574 in Books Melvin Konner 2003-02-01 2003-02-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 10.00 x .4 x 7.00l, 1.33 #File Name: 0805072799560 pagesThe Tangled Wing Biological Constraints on the Human Spirit | File size: 34.Mb

**Melvin Konner : The Tangled Wing: Biological Constraints on the Human Spirit** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Tangled Wing: Biological Constraints on the Human Spirit:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Work, But Poor Paperback QualityBy maybe2criticalThis is a review of the Holt Paperback version of the updated book ONLY, not the work per se. Bought new directly from (about \$20) I think this is probably the version most people are likely to buy now. I give the work 5 stars for obvious

reasons, but the quality of the paperback is poor in my opinion. I've seen many print-to-order books that are much better in quality than this one. The paper and print are not quite newspaperish, but they are more like that than not. The print itself is fuzzy and the pulp-like texture of the paper only makes it harder to read comfortably. (Maybe it IS the pulp-like quality of the paper itself that makes the print so unclear?) It is not as bad as a cheap mass market paperback; the paper is at least white, when new; but for a first rate text like this it is a shoddy production. I bought the updated version to supplement my 30+ year-old hardcover copy of the first edition (also published by Holt, way back when). My 1982 copy is still, after all these years, an order of magnitude better in terms of material quality than this new version "hot of the press." This work is so good that I will not read it in this low-grade condition, even if "new," and will now go in search of a hardcover copy of the updated edition, and hope for better results. This work deserves far better treatment by its publisher than it has received. And so do its readers!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating, although sobering  
By Marti Steussy  
This is the single best summary I've found of research on human nature, combining biological/medical, evolutionary, anthropological, ethological, and psychological data. The author is highly qualified but doesn't require you to simply accept his expertise; there's an extensive online bibliography (I mean EXTENSIVE!). He doesn't oversimplify, but appropriately qualifies conclusions and consistently points out alternative explanations and the "other hand." Although even this revised edition is now somewhat out of date, more recent research, at least in the fields I've been following, has supported rather than reversed the suggestions offered here. Most of the book explores, as the subtitle suggests, the ways in which biology sets directions and limits for our behavior. At the end he flips and discusses our capacity for change, but the discussions of current world problems (including distribution inequities, water shortage, and global warming) and the historical review of the abuses of biological or supposedly-biological paradigms (e.g. Social Darwinism and eugenics programs) in recent centuries are not encouraging reading. This is not a light read, but it's fascinating and raises questions worth grappling with.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting.....  
By Alice  
Very interesting and includes more information about the fairly recent discovery of the gene that causes some people; particularly women, to lose weight. It's a very primal part of the brain that "prepares" the body for famine and, at the moment, they don't know how to help people overcome this genetic condition. Good to understand however....

A vital updating of a seminal work of science First published to great acclaim twenty years ago, *The Tangled Wing* has become required reading for anyone interested in the biological roots of human behavior. Since then, revolutions have taken place in genetics, molecular biology, and neuroscience. All of these innovations have been brought into account in this greatly expanded edition of a book originally called an "overwhelming achievement" by *The Times Literary Supplement*. A masterful synthesis of biology, psychology, anthropology, and philosophy, *The Tangled Wing* reveals human identity and activity to be an intricately woven fabric of innumerable factors. Melvin Konner's sensitive and straightforward discussion ranges across topics such as the roots of aggression, the basis of attachment and desire, the differences between the sexes, and the foundations of mental illness.

How wonderful to have a new *Tangled Wing* which incorporates the rich findings made in the last twenty years in the fields of evolutionary and behavioral biology. We find the same graceful writing as in the original classic and the same facility to clarify complex issues and to come to stimulating conclusions. Ernst Mayr, Professor Emeritus, Harvard University  
From the Inside Flap  
"The evolutionary analysis of human behavior has sometimes been referred to as the 'moral equivalent of fast food.' This is why over the years I have returned again and again to the writing of Mel Konner, for a gourmet's account, nourishing the senses and the soul as well as the intellect. Sarah B. Hrdy, U. C. at Davis, and author of *MOTHER NATURE: MATERNAL INSTINCTS AND HOW THEY SHAPE THE HUMAN SPECIES*  
"How wonderful to have a new *TANGLED WING* which incorporates the rich findings made in the last twenty years in the fields of evolutionary and behavioral biology. We find the same graceful writing as in the original classic and the same facility to clarify complex issues and to come to stimulating conclusions. Ernst Mayr, Professor Emeritus, Harvard University  
"Indecently elegantly beautifully written book by any standard and it's about language, love, lust, learning and all the rest of our apes-and-beyond nature. Every behavioral biology topic reflects the enlightenment of the past two decades since this classic book first appeared." William H. Calvin, author of *THE CEREBRAL CODE*, co-author of *LINGUA EX MACHINA* and *CONVERSATIONS WITH NEIL'S BRAIN*  
"The word 'masterpiece' almost never springs to mind about a work in biosocial science. It does about *THE TANGLED WING*. This is a jewel of virtuoso scholarship written with lustrous and punctilious warmth. It's a remarkable accomplishment." Lionel Tiger, Charles Darwin Professor of Anthropology, Rutgers University, author of *THE DECLINE OF MALES*  
"Melvin Konner is... the nearest we have to a poet laureate of behavioral biology. This is an indispensable book." Robert Sapolsky, Stanford University, author of *WHY ZEBRAS DON'T GET ULCERS* and *THE TROUBLE WITH TESTOSTERONE*  
"The *Tangled Wing* is a magnificent synthesis of the latest knowledge of biology, psychology, and anthropology. No one is better qualified than Melvin Konner to illuminate the complex workings of the mind. This volume should be on the bookshelf of anyone interested in human nature - - and who is not." Aaron T. Beck, M.D., University Professor of Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania  
"Mel Konner has a breath-

taking set of skills. I do not think anyone else could have put together this synthesis, ranging from rigorous medicine, to cutting-edge psychology, to some funky field anthropology. He also has a rare command of language and knows how to tell a story. THE TANGLED WING is heavy-weight scholarship, rendered in an attractive and readable style." Mark Ridley, Professor of Zoology, Oxford University, author of MENDEL'S DEMON "Mel Konner has taken on the most fundamental question-what is our nature?-and provided a beautifully written, original account, as broad as it is deep. It is rare for a book by a scientist to be a page-turner, but Konner keeps the reader ever alert to his rare insights and profound understanding of our nature. Konner joins Lewis, Gould, and Pinker-a scientist who can write, who teaches us without realizing we are being taught. Paul Ekman, Professor of Psychology, U. of California, San Francisco This new edition of THE TANGLED WING updates and expands a seminal work on human nature. Mel Konner is a gifted synthesizer and a great teacher. . . Whether describing studies of single gene mutations or hunter-gatherer societies, he tells us not only what is known but what is not yet known and what may not be knowable. With clarity, insight, and, at times, poetry, he simultaneously explores and demonstrates the wonders of human nature. This is a superb book. Thomas Insel, M.D., Director, Center for Behavioral Neuroscience, Emory University If you read the breathtaking first edition of THE TANGLED WING and were mesmerized, your pleasures have just begun. Now Konner does it again, with a vastly new account of our nature. Each sentence is a pleasure to read, and the powerful points he makes about the human condition can leave one sleepless. Michael Gazzaniga, David T. McLaughlin Distinguished Professor, Director, Center for Cognitive Neuroscience, Dartmouth College In the great tradition of Charles Darwin and Thomas Henry Huxley, Konner updates the argument for a biological basis of the human mind and spirit with force, clarity and eloquence. J. Allan Hobson, Director of the Laboratory of Neurophysiology, Harvard Medical School, author of CONSCIOUSNESS In the upcoming postgenomic era, linking basic biology and behavior is likely to be the most important challenge of the life sciences, demanding an ability to move with poetic creativity yet with rigor from the humanities to molecules. THE TANGLED WING is the finest such effort I have seen. Konner has penetrating insight into hitherto unappreciated difficulties of Darwinian and Skinnerian approaches to sociobiology. He comes up with novel, creative formulations. All of this in a volume that is as gripping as a mystery novel. Solomon H. Snyder, M.D., Director, Department of Neuroscience, School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins U. ". . .it is rare to find an author with a depth of knowledge in both the biological and social sciences, combined with superb writing skills sufficient to provide readers with a breathtaking new understanding of human behavior. Mel Konner did that twenty years ago in the first edition of THE TANGLED WING. The updated and revised edition of this book is an even greater achievement . . . . THE TANGLED WING is sure to be among the most important books published in the first decade of the new millennium. Alice S. Rossi, Harriet Martineau Professor Emeritas of Sociology, University of Massachusetts (Amherst) Anyone, scholar or general reader, who is seriously interested in the human ought to engage this thorough revision of THE TANGLED WING. Konner's general erudition, his comprehensive research, his combination of deeply moral and humanistic sensitivity with scientific rigor, his wonderful prose, his critical analytical prowess, but most important his brilliant synthetic capacities provide a powerful and distinctive interpretation. This new version will, like the first, become a point of orientation for many persons in the coming decades. James M. Gustafson, Former Henry R. Luce Professor of Humanities and Comparative Studies, Emory University. About the Author Melvin Konner, M.D., Ph.D., is the Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Anthropology and an associate professor of neurology at Emory University. He is the author of Becoming a Doctor and Why the Reckless Survive and Other Secrets of Human Nature. A Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, he lives in Atlanta, Georgia.