



Visions: How Science Will Revolutionize the 21st Century

By Michio Kaku

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In *Visions*, physicist and author Michio Kaku examines the great scientific revolutions that have dramatically reshaped the twentieth century--the quantum mechanics, biogenetics, and artificial intelligence--and shows how they will change and alter science and the way we live.

The next century will witness more far-reaching scientific revolutions, as we make the transition from unraveling the secrets of nature to becoming masters of nature. We will no longer be passive bystanders to the dance of the universe, but will become creative choreographers of matter, life, and intelligence.

The first section of *Visions* presents a shocking look at a cyber-world infiltrated by millions of tiny intelligence systems. Part two illustrates how the decoding of DNA's genetic structure will allow humans the "godlike ability to manipulate life almost at will." Finally, *VISIONS* focuses on the future of quantum physics, in which physicists will perfect new ways to manipulate matter and harness the cosmic energy of the universe.

What makes Michio Kaku's vision of the science of the future so compelling--and so different from the mere forecasts of most thinkers--is that it is based on the groundbreaking research taking place in labs today, as well as the consensus of over 150 of Kaku's scientific colleagues. Science, for all its breathtaking change, evolves slowly; we can accurately predict, asserts Kaku, what the direction of science will be, based on the paths that are being forged today.

A thrilling, unique narrative that brings together the thinking of many of the world's most accomplished scientists to explore the world of the future, *Visions* is science writing at its best.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Take it easy: that's Michio Kaku's motto. Given the extraordinary advances science has thrown up in time for the millennium, the only way you could possibly fit them into a single volume is by a correspondingly massive simplification.

Subtitled *How Science Will Revolutionize the 21st Century and Beyond*, *Visions* assumes that, by and large, scientists get to do whatever they like, that all technologies are consumer technologies, and that consumers welcome anything and everything science throws at them. Kaku gets away with this frankly dodgy strategy by dint of sheer hard work. He has based his predictions on interviews with more than 150 renowned working scientists; he integrates these interviews with a huge body of original journalistic material; and, above all, he roots that mass of information on an entirely reasonable model of what the purpose of science will be in the third millennium. Up until now, science has expended its efforts on decoding most of the fundamental natural processes--"the dance," as Kaku puts it, of elementary particles deep inside stars and the rhythms of DNA molecules coiling and uncoiling within our bodies. Science's task now, Kaku believes, is to cross-pollinate advances thrown up by the study of matter, biology, and mind--modern science's three main theaters of endeavor. "We are now making the transition from amateur chess players to grand masters," he writes, "from observers to choreographers of nature." Then again, he also believes that "the Internet ... will eventually become a 'Magic Mirror' that appears in fairy tales, able to speak with the wisdom of the human race." Kaku, in short, deserves a good slapping--but he also deserves to be read. --*Simon Ings, Amazon.co.uk*

From Kirkus Reviews

Here's another entry in the game of predicting what science and technology will come up with after the turn of the millennium, this one from a theoretical physicist. Kaku, author of *Hyperspace* (1994), defines his central thesis in a few words: We humans are about to make the transition ``from being passive observers of Nature to active choreographers of Nature." He forecasts major breakthroughs in three specific areas: computer science, molecular biology, and quantum physics. While all three of these disciplines have already had a significant impact on our daily lives, Kaku finds a broad consensus among scientists, many of whom believe that everything we have seen so far is merely a prelude to what lies in store. In particular, while the development to date of these areas of science has been marked by extreme specialization, the 21st century is likely to be an age of synergy, in which each area builds on the discoveries of the others. On a 20-year time frame, computer chips will become smaller, cheaper, and almost ubiquitous; genetic therapy will have cured many diseases, possibly including most cancers. But beyond that point, it appears that fundamental bottlenecks in both computer science and molecular biology will necessitate new breakthroughs, many of which will derive from quantum physics. This may fuel a new round of technological innovations, among them artificial intelligence (a robot in every home), tailor-made organisms (new foods and medicines), nanotechnology, and new energy sources. Kaku does not ignore the potential downside of these developments, examining such nightmare scenarios as robot killing machines fighting future wars and a revived eugenics movement. But if all goes well, says Kaku, we may well develop into a true planetary society, the first step toward making the entire universe our home. With this fascinating volume, Kaku positions himself as a worthy successor to the late Carl Sagan as a spokesman for the potential of science to revolutionize our lives. (Author tour) -- *Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Review

Critical acclaim for Michio Kaku's previous book, *Hyperspace*:

"Among the best of its genre to appear in recent years...What a wonderful adventure it is, trying to think the unthinkable!"

--*The New York Times Book Review*

"A roller coaster of an intellectual ride through the extraordinary world of black holes, wormholes, parallel universes, higher dimensions and time travel."

--*Philadelphia Inquirer*

"Mesmerizing...the reader exits dizzy, elated and looking at the world in a literally revolutionary way."

--*Washington Post*

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Anthony Youngblood:

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Mitchell Smith:

The book Visions: How Science Will Revolutionize the 21st Century has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was written by the very famous author. The author makes some research ahead of write this book. This particular book very easy to read you can find the point easily after looking over this book.

Lisa Haight:

Reading can be called mind hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book mainly book entitled *Visions: How Science Will Revolutionize the 21st Century* your thoughts will drift away through every dimension, wandering in most aspects that maybe not known for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a publication then become one application from conclusion and explanation which maybe you never get just before. The *Visions: How Science Will Revolutionize the 21st Century* giving you an additional experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful data for your better life on this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

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