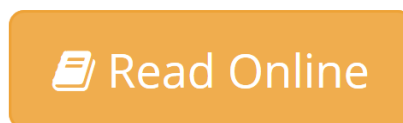


The Poetics of Reverie: Childhood, Language, and the Cosmos

By Gaston Bachelard



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In this, his last significant work, an admired French philosopher provides extraordinary meditations on the relations between the imagining consciousness and the world, positing the notion of *reverie* as its most dynamic point of reference. In his earlier book, *The Poetics of Space*, Bachelard considered several kinds of "praiseworthy space" conducive to the flow of poetic imagery. In *Poetics of Reverie* he considers the absolute origins of that imagery: language, sexuality, childhood, the Cartesian ego, and the universe. Approaching the psychology of wonder from the phenomenological viewpoint, Bachelard demonstrates the aurgentative *potential* of all that awareness. Thus he distinguishes what is merely a phenomenon of relaxation from the kind of reverie which "poetry puts on the right track, the track of expanding consciousness"

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Editorial Review

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About the Author

Gaston Bachelard (1884-1963) is the author of *The Poetics of Space*, *The Psychoanalysis of Fire*, and *The New Scientific Spirit*

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