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As If : Modern Enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of Virtual Reality by Michael T. Saler (2012, Paperback)

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Many people throughout the world "inhabit" fantastic imaginary worlds in a communal fashion, enthusiastically discussing the fine points of The Lord of the Rings, Star Trek, and Harry Potter, or banding together in online virtual worlds such as World of Warcraft and Second Life. These activities are often dismissed as harmless escapism or bemoaned as pernicious wish-fulfillments that distract ...

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As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of Virtual Reality. Michael Saler. Oxford University Press, USA, Jan 9, 2012 - Computers - 283 pages. 1 Review.

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Whereas discussions of "virtual reality" often center on the digital worlds computing and internet technology have made possible, in *As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of Virtual Reality*, Michael Saler argues that we have been creating, sharing, and dwelling within imaginary worlds since the mid-nineteenth century.

Saler, Michael. *As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary ...*

In his latest book, *As If*, he continues the project through an insightful and entertaining analysis of modern enchantment, specifically on the topic of fictional worlds that took on lives of their own in the imagination of their consumers. As Saler asserts in the first sentence of the book: "The modern West has been called 'disenchanted,' but that is a half-truth" (p. 3).

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Michael Saler. As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary ...

You knew that instinctively, of course, and "As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of Virtual Reality" charts the development of imaginative reality and explores the psychological and social reasons for its success, concentrating on the creations of Conan Doyle, H P Lovecraft and J R R Tolkien.

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Briefly, the books thesis is that virtual reality as we understand it has pre-computer forebears which emerged at the end of the 19th century as a reaction to the lack of enchantment that the modern world seemed to provide. This thesis is developed in the first two chapters.

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As If - Hardcover - Michael Saler - Oxford University Press

The question of "modernity and (dis)enchantment," prominent among intellectuals a century ago, sounds a bit fusty today. We are more likely to be pissed off or super happy than disenchanted or enchanted. For all its arcane trappings, though, this particular question is crucial.

enchantment, disenchantment - The Immanent Frame

As if: Modern enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of virtual Reality, by michael saler; pp. x + 283. oxford and new York: oxford university Press, 2012, £60.00, £22.50 paper, \$99.00, \$27.95 paper. In As If, the intellectual historian michael saler

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