



# 2021 Annual Report

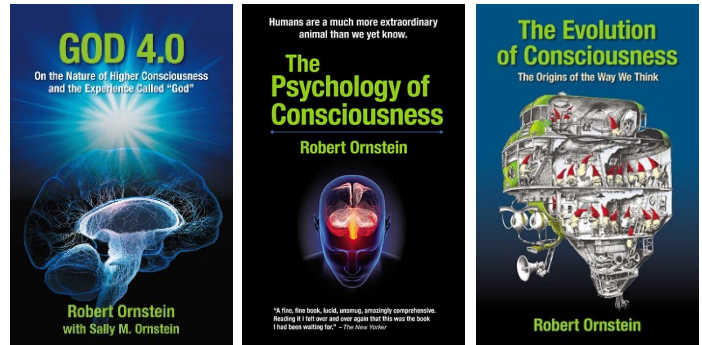
## The Institute for the Study of Human Knowledge

We're pleased to share this report of our accomplishments in 2021 and plans for 2022 and beyond. We owe a large debt of gratitude to those who contributed time and financial support, enabling us to move forward during this time when ISHK's work and perspective are so vitally needed. We continue to make significant progress with almost all of ISHK's programs in spite of the extraordinary challenges we all continue to face.

### Publishing Robert Ornstein's Final Book and Preserving His Legacy

On October 15, 2021, *God 4.0: On the Nature of Higher Consciousness and the Experience called "God"* by Robert Ornstein was published by ISHK's Malor Books. This long-awaited final work received excellent reviews and for two weeks ran #1 on Amazon's bestseller list for Psychology and Religion.

Finalized posthumously by his wife, Sally, *God 4.0* represents the culmination of Ornstein's lifetime of study and research to increase our understanding of human nature and the way we think, perceive, know, and thrive. Along with his groundbreaking books, a new 4<sup>th</sup> edition of *The Psychology of Consciousness* and a revised edition of *The Evolution of Consciousness*, this final work completed his [Conscious Evolution Trilogy](#) — the works he considered his most important contribution.



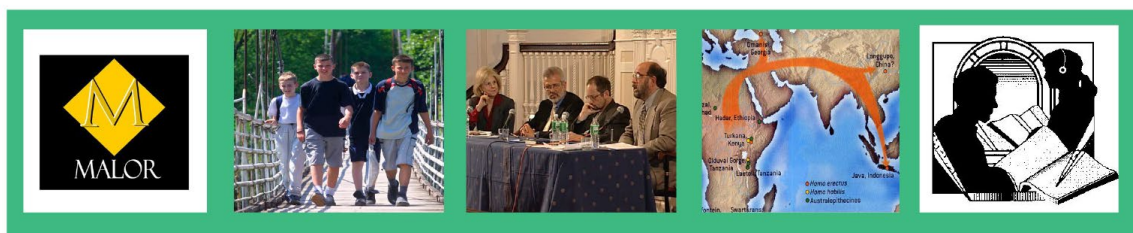
The three books together provide a fundamental reconsideration of ancient religious and spiritual traditions in light of advances in brain science and psychology, exploring the potential and relevance of this knowledge to contemporary needs and to our shared future.

Ornstein's hope was that readers of *God 4.0* will understand that we are all endowed with a higher perceptive capacity which, if developed, can truly be useful — and not only for ourselves or our personal life issues. The neurobiological description of the activation of this latent perceptive ability could help reconcile religion and science and enable us to come together to solve our shared global problems in a new, more objective way.

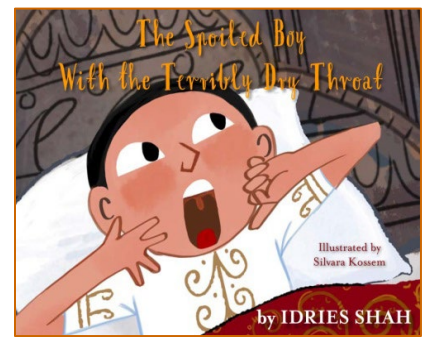
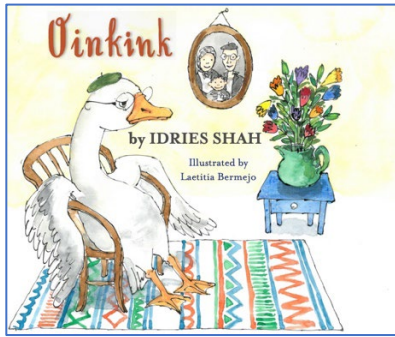
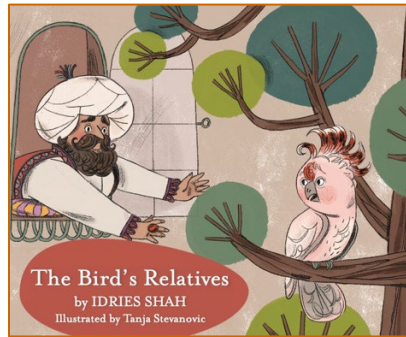
### What Now?

It was Ornstein's constant hope that our schools have access to a new curriculum in which understanding ourselves becomes at least as important as math, geography, and the like. We've made a great start with the Human Journey website and works such as [The Amazing Brain](#) and [MindReal](#), the newly revised and updated [All About Me](#) series of books to be released in 2022, plus Hoopoe's teaching stories for children — a start we hope to continue.

With the help of our supporters, ISHK will commission books, articles, podcasts and videos that continue to disseminate information on our human nature — not only its weaknesses and how to overcome them, but also its enormous potential and how to cultivate that. As Idries Shah noted, "You must conceive of possibilities beyond your present state if you are to be able to find the capacity to reach towards them."



## Hoopoe Books



We recently announced a new collaboration between [Hoopoe Books](#) and [Kashfi's Children](#) (KC), a U.K. community interest company founded and directed by Safia Shah, the youngest daughter of Idries Shah. Safia has joined the ISHK-Hoopoe Board of Directors and brings with her new teaching stories for children written by her father. Recalling these stories from her childhood, Safia remembers how she and her siblings waited on their best behavior as guests visited. *“We knew that if our father remained uninterrupted, he would illustrate whatever point he was making with one of our favorite stories. I am very excited to join with Hoopoe to share these extraordinary tales with children all over the world.”*

Together, KC and Hoopoe plan to publish six new paperback titles in the coming year, in English-only and in several bilingual editions. Each one will be beautifully illustrated and designed by the KC team. They will be available through the Hoopoe Books website and, as funds allow, printed and donated to disadvantaged children throughout the world.

## Hoopoe Books for Refugees

We began Hoopoe Books for Refugees program in 2018 in response to the worldwide refugee crisis. Our goal is to provide refugee children and their parents with the opportunity to read Hoopoe books in their own language as well as bilingual editions in English, French or German.

Little did we know how tragically relevant our efforts would become. In August, thousands of people were evacuated from Afghanistan, most bringing very little with them. More than 40% of the evacuees are children, many traveling by themselves. So we have reached out to agencies working with refugees to help to welcome young Afghan emigrants to their new homes, giving as many children as possible these same traditional tales from their homeland in beautiful bilingual Dari and Pashto editions, paired with English, French or German.



These stories help children continue to read their mother tongue and, at the same time, learn to read the language of their new home and share these stories from their homeland with classmates and new friends. We will provide these books free of charge as long as there is need and the generosity of our friends enables us to do so.

Thanks to our supporters' donations and a generous grant from The Reid Foundation, we have provided over 13,000 books to 23 programs so far. Some organizations run libraries, others give books to each child at immigration centers, food banks or health centers. Pictured left is Meherangez, after her visit to the Sacramento Primary Healthcare Center.

### What Now?

Going forward, we will continue to provide books to settlement organizations in the US and hope to expand this program beyond our shores. We have asked our supporters to help in this endeavor by contacting organizations resettling refugees, and providing that information to us at [hoopoebooks@ishk.net](mailto:hoopoebooks@ishk.net) to receive materials to share with prospective recipients.

## Share Literacy

[Share Literacy](#) is now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year. Thanks to our dedicated supporters, we've distributed almost 800,000 Hoopoe Books to disadvantaged children through our partner programs including schools, homeless shelters, family health programs, teacher-training organizations, and literacy programs.

The COVID-19 crisis continues to deepen the gap between rich and poor children. The chaos of the pandemic limited our ability to print and distribute large quantities of physical books. But thanks to the generous support of the Will J. Reid Foundation and to key volunteers, we were able to tailor the program to new circumstances, providing books and teacher training help to programs such as:

- Head Start programs in Falls Church and Winchester VA.
- CentroNia, a child-care center serving primarily Latinx, Caribbean, and African immigrants.
- Noyes Elementary School in Washington, D.C. The school sent books home to encourage reading during the pandemic when kids couldn't get books from libraries.
- Montgomery Housing Partnership (MHP) in Washington D.C. This established and highly successful affordable housing organization received books for their preschool learners and online training for their teachers.
- Jubilee Housing, a progressive affordable housing community in Washington D.C. that provides K-6 grade residents and community members with after-school programming. Jubilee ran a Hoopoe Books Giving Day Event, providing books, activities, literacy kits and Parent Literacy Guides for each book.



### What Now?

Now, in partnership with Kashfi's Children, we hope to expand our program worldwide to provide many more at-risk children with new teaching stories by Idries Shah in as many language editions as we can.

## Hoopoe Books for Pakistan

Schools reopened in February, after a long COVID-induced break. Since then, Mrs. Basarat Kasim, President of the ALBBS, writes that they have been donating books to schools as part of *My Book, My Friend!*, a book-distribution project now reaching thousands of children all over Pakistan. The hope is that this will create a love of reading in hundreds of children, who are able to read all the titles the program makes available and are given two books that they can keep forever.

Two Library-in-a-Box kits, each containing two sets of Hoopoe Books (100 books in all) were sent to 8 villages in Gwadar in Balochistan Province, by camel. Alif Laila now has seven camels: Roshan, Raunaq, Aman, Khushi, Chirag, Umeed, and Ujala. They travel carrying Hoopoe and other books to children in marginalized communities of Balochistan and Sindh. A wonderful video of one camel's journey is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVwwyfxB-nY&t=1s>.

Thanks to our supporters, an additional 10,000 Hoopoe books by Idries Shah in an Urdu-Balochi bilingual edition were printed. Our partners ALBBS are pilot testing a program and will keep sending more books as they receive evidence of distribution. The first installment of 600 books has gone out to Gwadar. They are working with a senior secondary teacher in a government school who is currently writing her MPhil thesis on bilingual teaching, with emphasis on teaching in the mother tongue. She has told us that since she is in the government school system, she can distribute the books in rural areas, too. That's exciting!!

### What Now?

In 2022, we will begin the implementation of our new collaboration with Kashfi's Children and plan to publish additional Hoopoe teaching stories by Idries Shah in Urdu-English editions for distribution by our partners ALBBS.



## The Human Journey



Thanks to our supporters, more and more people continue to discover ISHK's [Human Journey](#) website — 210,000 users from January 1 - November 17, 2021, some 80,000 users over the previous year, most from natural search.

### Learning from History: Progress from Crisis

Throughout our history, crisis has been the wellspring of humanity's most progressive ideas and institutions. In 2020-2021 we added information about two notable examples:

- How the devastating collapse of the Mycenaean civilization some 3,200 years ago led to the birth of democracy in archaic Greece.
- How some 1,200 years ago, the scholars of the Arab "Golden Age" centered in Baghdad and Cordoba developed and aided the transmission of classical Greek thought and culture, ultimately contributing to the birth of the European Renaissance.

Both of these stories hold important lessons for our own time: how and why civilizations rise and collapse, and how a culture of tolerance and open-mindedness is essential if we are to emerge from crises in ways that advance human development.

### Understanding Today's Challenges

The pandemic has heightened our sense of global interconnectedness. We need to put aside our notions of "us" and "them" to secure a sustainable future.

The timely publication of Ornstein's *God 4.0* addresses this issue head on and is a [featured book](#) on the Human Journey website.

*"It's not what you believe, it's what you perceive."*

Ornstein points out that conscious evolution — our next evolutionary step — can now be explained neurobiologically as an innate latent ability, a second system of cognition and perception that we all share and that can be developed. This new scientific perspective demonstrates how metaphors used in traditional metaphysical literature such as Beloved, Truth, Love or God, the idea of service, and virtues like patience, humility, and generosity are technical terms whose function is to reduce our selfish "me-first" normal consciousness and provoke this alternate selfless expanded perception. This higher expanded consciousness is what is needed to solve today's global problems. We now know how it works and how to develop it.

### What Now?

Early in 2022 we will review the whole Human Journey website, the content and breadth of which may exceed what we are currently able to maintain. We are asking those who are interested in taking on a section of the site to please let us know. We will keep just those areas going into the new year.

Our focus in 2022 will be to develop podcasts, videos and other interactive content to replace or enhance the existing text of those areas we can maintain.

**We are looking for people with some experience to help us with this endeavor, including researchers and writers. If you can help, please email [editors@humanjourney.us](mailto:editors@humanjourney.us)**

## Books for Afghanistan

In August, with the regime change in Afghanistan, we suspended our program there. We are delighted to report that we have been able to resume printing and distributing books, although we do not know the scale at which we will be able to operate.

Since 2009, Hoopoe's program has published our teaching stories in Dari-Pashto bilingual editions, editions in English and minority languages and donated them to over 5.4 million children in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan. Although we hope to continue the program as before, it is impossible to tell at this writing what we will be able to accomplish. We will keep our supporters apprised of the situation and with more information through the Hoopoe newsletters.

## **ISHK CE@Home: Continuing Education for Psychologists**

Since its inception more than 20 years ago, ISHK's [continuing education program](#) has given thousands of psychologists easy access to the latest information about the nature of human development, enabling them to earn CE credit for reading the best books in the field.

In 2021, ISHK received approval from New York State to offer the program there, and we added ten new courses to our selection of over 400 titles, which helped us expand our audience and our offering. The ongoing impact of COVID-19 and resulting emphasis on online vs. in-person learning has also helped us acquire new customers.

For many years the income generated by this program has subsidized our overall administration costs. Now that we have cut back on these costs, the proceeds from the program this year will also be applied toward the priority goals of our other important programs.

To continue this trend, **we are in need of volunteers to read and develop tests for new books. If you are interested in helping, please contact us at [CEatHome@ishk.net](mailto:CEatHome@ishk.net).**

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## **Looking Ahead**

All of this progress in 2021 has been possible thanks to the long-term support of the Will J. Reid Foundation and to the continued dedication from our contributors. For information on ways to support our programs, such as utilizing the deductions offered by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, contributing through the AmazonSmile program and participating in other giving programs, please contact us at:

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Website: <https://ishk.net>

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