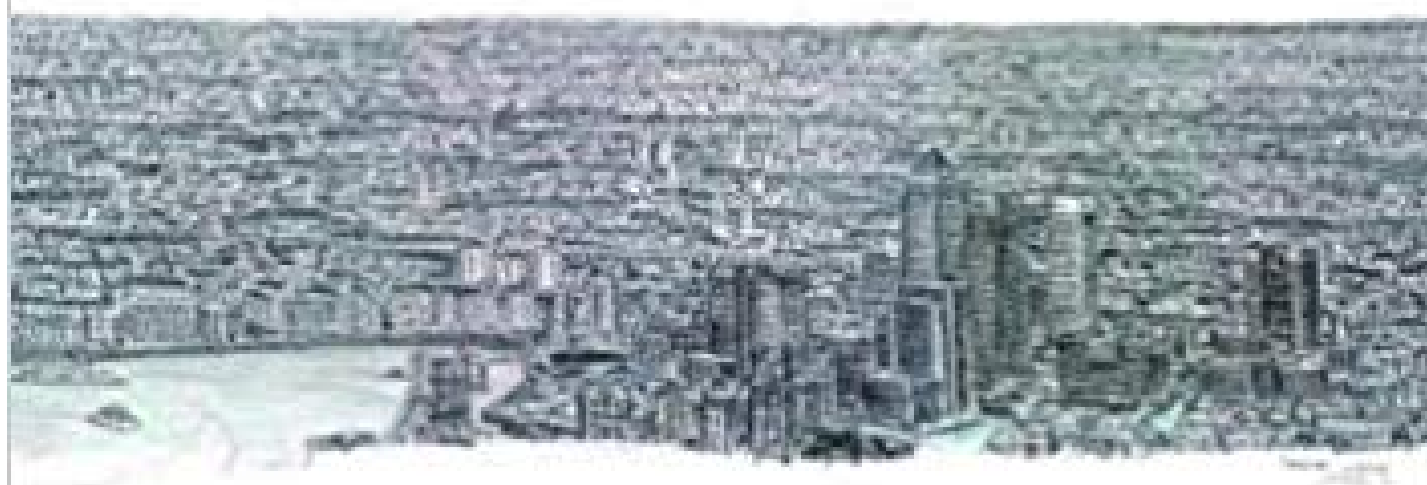


# Islands of GENIUS



The Bountiful Mind of the Autistic,  
Acquired, and Sudden Savant

Darold Treffert

Foreword by Daniel Tammet

*Darold A. Treffert and*

**Islands of Genius: The Bountiful Mind of the Autistic,  
Acquired, and Sudden Savant**



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In this fascinating book, Dr.\* Gold Medal Champion in the Psychology / Mental Health Group of the 2011 IPPY Awards \*\* Silver Medal Winner in the 2010 BOTYA Awards Psychology Category \*Savant syndrome is a rare condition in which people with developmental disorders, including autism spectrum disorders, have one or more regions of expertise, ability, or brilliance - "islands of genius" - which exist in contrast making use of their overall limitations. Darold Treffert looks at what we know about this impressive condition, and at fresh discoveries that increase interesting queries about the hidden mind potential within us all. Dr. A central color section contains the amazing artwork of some of the savants who are described in the reserve. Showing that these phenomena stage convincingly towards a reservoir of untapped potential - an inner savant capacity - within people, he looks both at how savant abilities could be nurtured, and how they can help the individual who has them, especially if that person is on the autism spectrum. Treffert explores the phenomena of genetic memory space - instances in which individuals somehow "know" things they hardly ever learned - and sudden genius or "obtained savantism" - where a neuro-usual person unexpectedly and spectacularly develops savant-like abilities carrying out a head damage or stroke. Islands of Genius will intrigue anyone who has ever wondered what makes the mind of a savant tick, in addition to clinicians, parents, teachers, therapists, and others who care for, and about, individuals with savant syndrome.



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However, as a person who is very thinking about the mechanisms behind many of the phenomena he describes (the boring mumbo jumbo), I'd have liked to learn a bit more technical description. While some of the writer's ideas are largely untested theories, to his credit he easily admits to this fact. One thing the reader should keep in mind is certainly that over an eternity of studying these people he has obviously developed an psychological attachment to them. Redefining in this manner in which people have a tendency to look at savants is Treffert's very goal in *Islands of Genius*. This casual, everyday style makes it easy to sense the compassion in his composing as he watch his subjects as more than just items for study. While this reserve give some very nice insights into the life and experiences of many Savants, it sometimes feels more like a series of case studies when compared to a deeper knowledge of the feasible origins and nature of Savant behavior. His perspective is among clinical precision, but is also one of real compassion. I would suggest this publication to any ponderer, researcher, or curious mind thinking about the way the mind works and the way we can explore our own capabilities. General, *Islands of Genius* presents a remarkably novel perspective in the analysis of the savant and extends this perspective to the reader, inviting him to delve deeper into study of your brain itself and its own true potential. Treffert maintains this immersive focus on the savant as a whole person through his composing in a manner that makes this book not the same as any other work about the topic. Other accounts of savantism whether in the news, in textbooks, in memoirs or on film, appear to frame savantism merely as a talent-show-like ability good for an instant awe. I say this not as a confident or negative declaration, rather as a fact that the reader should keep in mind while processing the suggestions and tales that the author presents. The delivery of information about the nature of savantism and the mechanisms behind autism is very thorough and contextual. Though he's very detailed in his descriptions, Treffert could be repetitive as he restates fundamental qualities of savants quite frequently. In the next three sections, Treffert focuses on the analysis and the clinical effect of the study of savants. Tammet's writing is very detailed and thought-provoking, seeing that is anticipated from a guy of such analytical character. However, his compassionate character shines through as he emphasizes the way savants are not just objects with "supercomputer-like mental processing" capabilities, but also the outcomes of "distinctly human characteristics: passion, dedication, enthusiasm, love." I found this different strategy admirable and well-executed. great information I have always been fascinated with the savant syndrome which book has wonderful details concerning it. In the first section, "YOUR BRAIN of the Savant," Treffert targets various aspects of the mind of a savant that make it unique. This answers many questions the reader has when it comes to general qualities demonstrated by these individuals. Informative yet

familiar, Treffert's presentation design makes the book ideal for psychology professionals, college students and casual curiosities alike. The way Treffert describes the way savants fall in love with their quirks and their obsessions is certainly eye-opening and unexpected as many had never truly considered. Occasionally, this breaks up the movement of the work as he efforts to mimic the stream of consciousness of the individuals he is describing. He focuses 1st on novel types of savantism, then elaborates upon ways in which researchers and readers alike can learn from the savants for additional learning and study. Overall, the framework of the reserve was very effective. It was very clearly organized and was easy to jump around. Just how Treffert used the 1st two sections to supply anecdotal descriptions for each of his subjects individually managed to get easy to go back and make reference to these qualities later on in the novel. By presenting examples first followed by mental mechanisms and more clinical information later, it was much easier for the reader to use their very own connections to the principles Treffert mentions." I'd have liked more tales of savants and what they perform and how they improvement through life. Fascinating go through to feed any curiosity In Islands of Genius, psychiatrist Dr. Interesting and thought provoking For someone like myself who knows hardly any about savant syndrome, autism, and the theories encircling such topics I found this book was an excellent primer about them. The content of Treffert's book is informative while Islands of Genius still steers far away from being truly a textbook. Not only does he effectively redefine the conversation to encompass all characteristics of the beautiful minds of savants, but he does so with great focus on detail and effective compassion. Often, probably the most painful parts about textbooks may be the lack of contextual details used to framework the piece and its relevance to the reader. Though Treffert is frequently quite repetitive with his inclusion of the basics, his side-by-part delivery of specifics with context is very effective. Within the initial four parts of the reserve, Treffert presents information regarding the nature of the savant in direct juxtaposition with the effect such qualities might have not merely on the lives of individuals closest to the effected individual, but also on the reader. This section describes the magnitude of conclusions drawn from autism research and the analysis of the mind of the savant on the global stage. Not merely will this proposition add weight and importance to the information he chooses relating to Islands of Genius, but it additionally motivates the reader to delve deeper in to the studying of your brain and its own nuances in savants. In addition, Treffert masterfully places Part 5 immediately after some of his most gripping inclusion of global context. He proposes that, by learning and admiring your brain of these people, any reader can mimic such methods, albeit on a very much lighter level, to unlock their own mind's potential. Not only can this analysis revolutionize what sort of world sights and

interacts using its savants, but it may also change just how we think about our very own mind and its boundless potential. Tammet, a savant who made international news after memorizing pi to 22,514 digits, draws the reader into the world of savant as he describes not merely what makes savants exclusive, but also the specific human qualities that produce savants as passionate and dedicated as any other individuals. His publication, coupled with a fascinating foreword by Daniel Tammet, gives the reader an unparalleled view into the complex thoughts of savants. Having clarified history information and released context for the characteristics of savants, "Part 2 The Globe of the Savant," places nuances of the savant brain in the context of everyday life and everyday struggles. Though his presentation is frequently repetitive, you can not match Treffer's degree of detail and the depth of his display of savants of most types as complicated, multifaceted individuals with a lot to teach the world. Interesting Reading A good book, but a bit clinical in nature. Darold Treffert shares different lessons and anecdotes from his almost 50 years of experience with savants. Possibly the most interesting part time me is the authors suggestion that people all have the potential for extraordinary mental jobs, the trick is how exactly to access these abilities. Authoritative Fascinating book which could just be writing by a single man on the planet. No-one has compiled instances of obtained savant syndrome like Dr. Treffert. And he writes with enthusiasm and acumen. But in the event that's what you're looking for, it's an incredible book. It is, of course, largely a publication of case studies of autistic savants, therefore know what you're getting. The body of the novel is certainly damaged into sections investigating different facets of the study of savants. In addition, it has some info on hyperlexia which is of interest to me since my great nephew is definitely hyperlexic. Good Great, but not as good as his publication "Extrordinary People. Treffert's design is fairly familiar and casual, considering his clinical history and the technical basis for much of what he describes. Five Stars Best book about servant ever written. Ron Sandison Four Stars good it really teaches you that there are good people on earth Incredible book, it certainly shows you that there are good people on earth.



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