

CONTENTS

Preface *vii*

Introduction: The Nature and Interpretation of Religion *1*

Method / What Is Religion? / What Is Philosophy of Religion?

PART ONE: PROBLEMS IN THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION 47

Chapter I: Paradox in Religious Language 49

Religious Language / Analogical Method / Paradox, Nonsense, and Koan / Paradox and Logic / Explorability of Paradox / Falsifiability / Paradox in Symbolizing God / What Is Mystery? / Open-mindedness / Analogy and Paradox / What Makes Paradox Logically Explorable?

Chapter II: Symbol and Reality 69

What Is a Symbol? / Prose, Poetry, and Symbol / Symbol and Sign / God: Symbol and Taboo / Symbolic Forms / Verbal Symbols / Myth as a Symbolic Form / Sacrament as Symbol in Action / Confused Thinking or a Forgotten Language? / How Do Symbols Function? / Two Theories of the Functioning of Symbols / The Genesis and Development of Symbol-Making / Interpretative Selecting and Grouping / Symbol-Making and Perspectival Thinking / Rules for the Interpretation of Symbols / Interpretation Rules for Analogical Symbols / The Wildness of Religious Symbols

Chapter III: Religious Truth-Claims: Evidence and Proof 97

The Difficulty of Disengaging Religious Truth-Claims / Basic Truth-Claims / Conditions for Susceptibility to

Evidence / What Kind of Evidence Is Relevant? / John
Wisdom on Interpretation / Basic Proposals and *Gestalten* /
Two Traditional Arguments for the Existence of God / The
Teleological Argument / The Ontological Argument /
Logical Validity Need Not Compel Assent / Can Religious
Experience Serve as Evidence? / Scientific Hypotheses and
Religious Faith / Beyond *Bliks* / Evidence and Proof /
Falsification and Proof / Has Faith a Special Logic? / The
Nature of Evidence

Chapter IV: God and Nature 125

The Term "Nature" / The Pantheistic Solution /
Panentheism / Nature and the Divine-Artist God / Nature
as God's Creation / Why a God-Nature Antinomy? / God
as Self-Limiting

Chapter V: Evil in Classical Theism 147

Why Evil Is a Special Problem in Monotheism / A Solution
Restricting God's Control of Nature / The Dèmonic / The
Augustinian View / A Standard Modern Objection /
Conventional Rebuttal / Suffering Disproportionate / Surd
Evil / The Leibnizian Solution / Accidentality / Two
Concepts Kaleidoscoped / Further Theological
Complications / The Mythological Context / Myth and
Science / Is Nonaccidentality Conceivable? / Not a School
but a Jungle / Evil and the Self-Limiting God

Chapter VI: The Nature of Man 175

The Importance of the Question / Deviations and Human
Essence / Slavery / Moral Aristocracies / Essence or Process
/ Religious and Nonreligious Interpretations / Man is the
Measure / Does Man Make or Meet What He Worships? /
Human Values, Individual and Social / Aggregation and
Individuation in the Evolutionary Process / Aggregation and
Individuation in Man / Aggregation, Individuation, and God
/ The Superman in Early Christian Thought / The
Superman in Late Nineteenth Century Religious Faith /
Difficulties in the Concept of the Future Evolution of Man
/ The Future of Man: Evolution and Faith

Chapter VII: Faith, Doubt, and Existential Anguish 209

Anguish as the Prerequisite of Faith / The Great
Existentialist Themes / The Common Ancestry of

Existentialism and Process Thought / The Emergence of the
Existentialist Mood / Involvement, Commitment, and
Concern / Is Faith a Kind of Knowledge? / What Kind of
Cognition Could There Be in Faith? / "Believing in" and
"Believing that" / Knowing and Believing / The Role of
Doubt in Faith / Conditions of Faith / A Skeptical
Objection to the Faith-Existence Model

Chapter VIII: Mysticism, Sacrifice, and Love 247

The Nature of the Problem / The Characteristics of
Mysticism / Upanishadic Mysticism / Yoga / Bhakti /
Some Other Mystical Traditions / Jewish Mysticism /
Mysticism in Islam / Varieties of Christian Mystical
Tradition / Benedictine Contemplation / Objections to the
Logic and Language of Mysticism / *Agapē* and *Erōs* in
Mysticism

Chapter IX: Death and Future Life 289

The Notion of "Survival After Death" / Is the Notion of an
Afterlife Nonsensical? / How Believers Invest Death with
Meaning / Belief in Afterlife Dependent on Metaphysical
Views / The "Shape of Death" in the Christian Fathers /
The Nature of Resurrection-Faith / The Resurrection of
What? / Why the Death Veil? / The Concept of Purgatory
/ The Pilgrim and the Nonpilgrim View of Life / The
Concept of Eternal Life Beyond Further Pilgrimage / Why
the Double Veil of Birth and Death? / What Is "the Same
Person"?

PART TWO: GOD AS KENOTIC BEING 311

Chapter X: The Antinomies of Religious Belief 313

The Function of Antinomies in Religious Belief / Inspecting
the Emergence of Religious Awareness / How Religious
Awareness Emerges / Do Belief and Unbelief Coalesce? /
The Conditions of Belief and Unbelief / The Nature-God
Antinomy / Nature, God, and Solipsism / The
Doubt-Certitude Antinomy / The Despair-Faith Antinomy
/ The Absence-Presence Antinomy

Chapter XI: Experience, Reason, and Creative Religious Protest 345

What Is Experience? / The Rational and the Irrational in
Religion / Religious Protest against Rationality / Conflict

Between Theology and Faith / Other Minds, Rationality, and
God

Chapter XII: Freedom, Renunciation, and Miracles 365

Imaginative Power / Renunciation / Renunciation of
Freedom / The Importance of Scientific Methodology /
Primitive Concepts of the Miraculous / The Humean
Tradition / What Is a Miracle? / Miracle, Magic, and
Science / Biblical and Contemporary Conceptions of Miracle
/ Multidimensionality and the Renunciation of Power

Chapter XIII: Ethics and Religion 391

The Autonomy of Ethics / Is Religion Reducible to Ethics?
/ Is Ethics Reducible to Religion? / Russell's Religionless
Morality / Situationism, Contextualism, and the "New
Morality" / Ethics and Religion Inseparable Yet Distinct /
Religion Without God / The Emergence and Maturation of
Morality and Religion

Chapter XIV: Conceptual Models and Cosmic Agapē 425

Restatement of the Central Issue / The Logic of Theological
Models / The Positivistic Objection / How a Bad Penny
Drops / Openness the Condition of Discovery / A
Methodology of Openness / The Term "Love" in Religious
Discourse / *Agapē* and Openness to Being / The Cognitive
Element in *Agapē* / Breaking the Barriers to Being /
Creative Self-Limiting Asceticism / The Kenotic Proposal /
Asceticism, Cosmos, and *Agapē* / Providence and Freedom

Glossary 463

Index 493