

#### Hidden Divinity and Religious Belief

This collection of new essays written by an international team of scholars is a ground-breaking examination of the problem of divine hiddenness, one of the most dynamic areas in current philosophy of religion. Together the essays constitute a wide-ranging dialogue on the problem. They balance atheistic and theistic standpoints, and they bring to bear not only the standard philosophical perspectives but also insights from Jewish, Muslim, and Eastern Orthodox traditions. The apophatic and the mystical are well represented too. As a result, the volume throws fresh light on this familiar but important topic in the philosophy of religion. In the process, the volume incorporates contemporary work in epistemology, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of language. For all these reasons, this book will be of great interest to researchers and advanced students in philosophy of religion and theology.

ADAM GREEN is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Azusa Pacific University. He has published numerous articles in journals, including Episteme, Synthese, American Philosophical Quarterly, The Monist, Religious Studies, and European Journal for Philosophy of Religion.

ELEONORE STUMP is the Robert J. Henle Professor of Philosophy at Saint Louis University. She has published extensively on philosophy of religion, contemporary metaphysics, and medieval philosophy. Her recent publications include *Aquinas* (2003), *Wandering in Darkness: Narrative and the Problem of Suffering* (2010), and *The Oxford Handbook of Aquinas* (co-edited with Brian Davies, 2012).





# Hidden Divinity and Religious Belief

New Perspectives

Edited by

Adam Green and Eleonore Stump





## **CAMBRIDGE**UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107078130

© Cambridge University Press 2015

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2015

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data
Hidden divinity and religious belief: new perspectives / edited
by Adam Green, Eleonore Stump.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-07813-0 (hbk)

Theism.
 Hidden God.
 God-Knowableness.
 Knowledge,
 Theory of (Religion)
 Philosophy and religion.
 Green, Adam, 1981– editor.
 BL200.H53
 Philosophy and religion.

212'.6-dc23 2015028159

ISBN 978-1-107-07813-0 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.



> For John, composer, theologian, priest, and blessing to us both

"What would the world be, once bereft
Of wit and wildness?"

(A slight variation on Poem 33, "Inversnaid,"
by Gerard Manley Hopkins)



Come back to Your servants now, Give back, O Lord, Your light. The pathways are parting, now we choose. Yet you hide from our sight. Rupture the heavens, come back to our lives, Come down to your people, Lord of life.

My Shepherd is the Lord, There is nothing I shall need. Fresh indeed are the pastures where he'll lead.

© 1981, 1985, John B. Foley, S. J. and New Dawn Music. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213





#### Contents

	List of contributors	page ix
	Acknowledgments	X
	Introduction	1
	rt I The Argument from God's Hiddenness against	11
Gu	u s existence	11
1	Divine hiddenness and human philosophy	13
	J. L. SCHELLENBERG	
Pa	rt II God's Hiddenness: Overlooked Issues	33
2	The semantic problem of hiddenness MEGHAN SULLIVAN	35
3	Divine hiddenness and the cognitive science of religion HELEN DE CRUZ	53
Pa	rt III God's Hiddenness: Faith and Skepticism	69
4	Divine hiddenness and self-sacrifice PAUL K. MOSER	71
5	Journeying in perplexity EVAN FALES	89
Pa	rt IV Reasons for Hiddenness and Unbelief	107
6	No-fault atheism	109
	JOHN GRECO	

vii



viii	Contents	
7	Divine openness and creaturely nonresistant nonbelief DANIEL HOWARD-SNYDER	126
8	Hiddenness and the epistemology of attachment ADAM GREEN	139
Part V God's Hiddenness and God's Nature in the Major Monotheisms		155
9	The hiddenness of "divine hiddenness": divine love in medieval Islamic lands JON MCGINNIS	157
10	The hidden God of the Jews: Hegel, Reb Nachman, and the <i>aqedah</i> JEROME GELLMAN	175
11	The hidden divinity and what it reveals N. N. TRAKAKIS	192
12	Hiddenness and transcendence MICHAEL C. REA	210
Pa	rt VI God's Hiddenness: Suffering and Union with God	227
13	Divine hiddenness or dark intimacy? How John of the Cross dissolves a contemporary philosophical dilemma SARAH COAKLEY	229
14	Silence, evil, and Shusaku Endo YUJIN NAGASAWA	246
15	Lyric theodicy: Gerard Manley Hopkins and the problem of existential hiddenness IAN DEWEESE-BOYD	260
	References Index	278 293



#### Contributors

SARAH COAKLEY, Norris-Hulse Professor of Divinity, University of Cambridge HELEN DE CRUZ, Senior Lecturer in Philosophy, Oxford Brookes University IAN DEWEESE-BOYD, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Gordon College EVAN FALES, Associate Professor of Philosophy, The University of Iowa JEROME GELLMAN, Professor of Philosophy, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Honorary Affiliate, Australian Catholic University JOHN GRECO, Leonard and Elizabeth Eslick Chair in Philosophy, Saint Louis University ADAM GREEN, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Azusa Pacific University DANIEL HOWARD-SNYDER, Professor of Philosophy, Western Washington University JON MCGINNIS, Professor of Philosophy, University of Missouri, St. Louis PAUL K. MOSER, Professor of Philosophy, Loyola University Chicago YUJIN NAGASAWA, Professor of Philosophy and Co-Director of the John Hick Centre for Philosophy of Religion at the University of Birmingham MICHAEL C. REA, Professor of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame J. L. SCHELLENBERG, Professor of Philosophy, Mount Saint Vincent University MEGHAN SULLIVAN, Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of

N. N. TRAKAKIS, Senior Lecturer, Australian Catholic University

Notre Dame



### Acknowledgments

We would like to thank our families and our respective academic communities for their support during the production of this volume. We would like to extend a special thanks to Frank and Sandra Horvath for permission to use their photograph on the cover of this book. We are grateful to Matthew Shea, whose editorial help on this volume was invaluable. We also owe a debt of thanks to Hilary Gaskin and Rosemary Crawley of Cambridge University Press for their excellent help, advice, and patience. And together we are glad to dedicate this volume to Fr. John B. Foley, S.J., composer, theologian, and priest, whose companionship is a blessing to us and to our families.