

Reason and Religion

Religion is relevant to all of us, whether we are believers or not. This book concerns two interrelated topics. First, how probable is God's existence? Should we not conclude that all divinities are human inventions? Second, what are the mental and social functions of endorsing religious beliefs? The answers to these questions are interdependent. If a religious belief were true, the fact that humans hold it might be explained by describing how its truth was discovered. If all religious beliefs are false, a different explanation is required.

In this provocative book Herman Philipse combines philosophical investigations concerning the truth of religious convictions with empirical research on the origins and functions of religious beliefs. Numerous topics are discussed, such as the historical genesis of monotheisms out of polytheisms, how to explain Saul's conversion to Jesus, and whether any apologetic strategy of Christian philosophers is convincing. Universal atheism is the final conclusion.

Herman Philipse is Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands. He is the author of *God in the Age of Science? A Critique of Religious Reason* and of numerous publications on many philosophical topics.

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Reason and Religion

Evaluating and Explaining Belief in Gods

HERMAN PHILIPSE

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Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>page</i>	ix
Introduction		I
PART I THE REASONABLENESS OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS		
I Religious Epistemology		II
1.1 An Argument from Cultural Contingency		12
1.2 Epistemic Sources of Religious Beliefs		17
1.3 St Paul and the Pythia		23
1.4 Calibration of Epistemic Sources		32
2 Science and Religion		41
2.1 The Place of the Earth in the Universe		44
2.2 The Time of Man and the Universe		50
2.3 From Laplace to Darwin and Beyond		55
2.4 Empirical Evidence against Theism		61
PART II THE EVOLUTION OF RELIGION AND ETHICS		
3 Religions: Origins and Evolution		69
3.1 Religious (Pre)history		71
3.2 Origins of Polytheisms		76
3.3 Transitions to Monotheisms		86
4 Religion and Ethics		97
4.1 Religious Justifications of Moral Rules		100
4.2 Moralizing Religions Explained		103
4.3 The Earliest Expansions of Christianity		109
4.4 Global Warming, Population Growth, and Religion		117

PART III APOLOGETIC STRATEGIES EVALUATED

5	The Decision Tree for Religious Believers	123
5.1	Challenges for Religious Apologetics	125
5.2	Apologetic Strategies Classified	129
5.3	Religious Language Games	133
5.4	Religious Confidentialism	136
5.5	Involvement Evidentialism	145
5.6	Personifying Evidence of God	151
6	Natural Theology	165
6.1	Natural Theology: Descent and Revival	167
6.2	Bare Theism and Bayesian Natural Theology	171
6.3	The Semantic Challenge for Bare Theism	177
6.4	The Predictive or Explanatory Power of Theism	180
6.5	The Final, Epistemological Challenge	186
	Conclusion: The Two Interrelated Core Questions	189
	<i>Bibliography</i>	203
	<i>Index</i>	215

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