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RELIGIOUS FICTIONALISM

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Religious Fictionalism

Elements in the Philosophy of Religion

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Abstract: This Element is an introduction to contemporary religious fictionalism, its motivation and challenges. Among the issues raised are:

- Can religion be viewed as a game of make-believe?
- In what ways does religious fictionalism parallel positions often labelled 'fictionalist' in ethics and metaphysics?
- Does religious fictionalism represent an advance over its rivals?
- Can fictionalism provide an adequate understanding of the characteristic features of the religious life, such as worship, prayer, and moral commitment?
- Does fictionalism face its own version of the problem of evil?
- Is realism about theistic (God-centred) language less religiously serious than fictionalism?

Keywords: religion, fiction, fictionalism, realism, make-believe

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