

Cambridge Elements =

Elements in the Philosophy of Religion edited by Yujin Nagasawa University of Birmingham

RELIGIOUS LANGUAGE

Olli-Pekka Vainio University of Helsinki





CAMBRIDGEUNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia 314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

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/9781108742238
DOI: 10.1017/9781108668224

© Olli-Pekka Vainio 2020

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 2020

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

ISBN 978-1-108-74223-8 Paperback ISSN 2399-5165 (online) ISSN 2515-9763 (print)

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.



Religious Language

Elements in the Philosophy of Religion

DOI: 10.1017/9781108668224 First published online: November 2020

> Olli-Pekka Vainio University of Helsinki

Author for correspondence: Olli-Pekka Vainio, olli-pekka.vainio@helsinki.fi

Abstract: What does it mean to use language religiously? How does religious language differ from our ordinary linguistic practices? Can religious language have meaning? Among others, these questions are part of the so-called problem of religious language, which originates from the peculiar object of many religious claims, that is, the transcendent, or more precisely, God.

Keywords: religious language, mysticism, positivism, fictionalism

© Olli-Pekka Vainio 2020

ISBNs: 9781108742238 (PB), 9781108668224 (OC) ISSNs: 2399-5165 (online), 2515-9763 (print)



Contents

	Introduction	1
1	Language in the Search of Meaning	2
2	Naming God in the Mystical Tradition	15
3	Imagining God	32
	List of Abbreviations	50
	Bibliography	51