

# Cambridge Elements

Elements in Religion and Monotheism

edited by

Paul K. Moser

*Loyola University Chicago*

Chad Meister

*Bethel University*

## MONOTHEISM AND HUMAN NATURE

Andrew M. Bailey

*Yale-NUS College*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-96440-1 — Monotheism and Human Nature  
Andrew M. Bailey  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY 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](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108964401](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108964401)

DOI: 10.1017/9781108966962

© Andrew M. Bailey 2021

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 2021

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

ISBN 978-1-108-96440-1 Paperback

ISSN 2631-3014 (online)

ISSN 2631-3006 (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.

## Monotheism and Human Nature

Elements in Religion and Monotheism

DOI: 10.1017/9781108966962  
First published online: May 2021

---

Andrew M. Bailey  
*Yale-NUS College*

**Author for correspondence:** Andrew M. Bailey, [wraithius@gmail.com](mailto:wraithius@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** The main question of this Element is how the existence, supremacy, and uniqueness of an almighty and immaterial God bear on our own nature. It aims to uncover lessons about what we are by thinking about what God might be. A dominant theme is that Abrahamic monotheism is a surprisingly hospitable framework within which to defend and develop the view that we are wholly material beings. But the resulting materialism cannot be of any standard variety. It demands revisions and twists on the usual views. We can indeed learn about ourselves by learning about God. One thing we learn is that, though we are indeed wholly material beings, we're not nearly as ordinary as we might seem.

**Keywords:** monotheism, personal ontology, personal identity, materialism, dualism

© Andrew M. Bailey 2021

ISBNs: 9781108964401 (PB), 9781108966962 (OC)  
ISSNs: 2631-3014 (online), 2631-3006 (print)

## Contents

1	Opening Moves	1
2	Spirits Human and Divine	9
3	Simplicity and Mystery	22
4	God Alone	33
5	Heterodoxy	47
	References	65