## Metaphor, Religious Language, and Religious Experience

Victoria S. Harrison

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Abstract Is it possible to talk about God without either misrepresentation or failing to assert anything of significance? The article begins by reviewing how, in attempting to answer this question, traditional theories of religious language have failed to sidestep both potential pitfalls adequately. After arguing that recently developed theories of metaphor seem better able to shed light on the nature of religious language, it considers the claim that huge areas of our language and, consequently, of our experience are shaped by metaphors. Finally, it considers some of the more significant implications of this claim for our understanding of both religious language and religious experience.

Keywords Metaphor - Religious language - God - Religious experience

Is it possible to talk about God<sup>1</sup> without either misrepresentation or failing to assert anything of significance? In an attempt to answer this question, I begin by reviewing how traditional theories of religious language have failed to sidestep both potential pitfalls adequately. I then turn to recent developments in the theory of metaphor developments that seem better able to explain how speakers are capable of referring to God successfully without having to misrepresent the divine.

Before proceeding, however, some clarification of the term "religious language" is required. "Religious language," as employed by religious scholars in the everyday sense, refers to the written and spoken language typically used by religious believers

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Rather than exploring the ways in which different conceptions of God might influence thought about religious language, I presuppose a particular view of God—that view which is dominant within Semitic monotheism—and consider religious language as it is employed within the context of belief in that God.

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# **Metaphor And Religious Language**

Charles Taliaferro, Paul Draper, Philip L. Quinn

# **Metaphor And Religious Language:**

Metaphor and Religious Language Janet Martin Soskice,1985 Discusses the role of metaphor in Christian theology Metaphorical Theology Sallie McFague,1982-01-01 a liberating book about a liberating theological approach Christianity and CrisisMetaphorical Theology is a brilliant piece of writing which will make an important contribution both to new thinking on he nature of religious language and also to the dialogue between Christianity and Feminist Theology Rosemary Radford RuetherGarrett Evangelical Theological SeminaryThe great virtue of Professor McFague's book is that it tackles some crucial problems in an extremely perceptive and creative way All in all it is a most timely book both for the theological and for the church at large Maurice WilesRegius Professor of DivinityChrist Church Oxford University

Metaphor and Religious Language Janet Martin Soskice, 2002

Metaphor and Religious Language Janet Martin Soskice, 1987

Religion, Language, and the Human Mind Paul Chilton, Monika Kopytowska, 2018-04-03 Religion is a multi faceted and complex human phenomenon combining many different mental and social characteristics Among these language plays a crucial though often neglected role This volume brings together groundbreaking work from linguistics cognitive science and neuroscience as well as from religious studies in order to illuminate the origins and centrality of religion in human life

The Translatability of the Religious Dimension in Shakespeare from Page to Stage, from West to East Jenny Wong, 2018-05-29 This interdisciplinary study traverses the disciplines of translation studies hermeneutics theater studies and sociology Under the power turn or political turn in translation studies the omission and untranslatability of religious material are often seen as the product of censorship or self censorship But the theology of each individual translating agent is often neglected as a contributing factor to such untranslatability. This book comprehensively traces the hermeneutical process of the translators as readers and the situational process and semiotics of theater translation Together these factors contribute to an image of translated literature that in turn influences the literature s reception While translation theorists influenced by the current sociological turn view social factors as determining translation activities and strategies this volume argues that the translator s or the dramatist s theology and religious values interact with the socio cultural milieu to carve out a unique drama production Often it is the religious values of the translating agents that determine the product rather than social factors Further the translatability of religious discourse should be understood in a broader sense according to the seven dimensions proposed by Ninian Smart rather than merely focusing on untranslatability as a result of semantic and Cognitive Linguistics and Religious Language Peter Richardson, Charles M. Mueller, Stephen linguistic differences Pihlaja, 2021-03-28 This book comprehensively introduces Cognitive Linguistics and applies its tools to religious language Drawing on authentic samples from a range of faiths text types and modes of interactive discourse the authors accessibly define concepts like embodied cognition agency metaphor analysis and Dynamic Systems Theory illustrate how they can be used in analyzing religious language and offer thorough pedagogical material to aid learning and application Advanced

students and scholars of linguistics discourse analysis cognitive science and religious and biblical studies will benefit from this practical guide to understanding and conducting research on religious discourse A Companion to Philosophy of Religion Charles Taliaferro, Paul Draper, Philip L. Quinn, 2010-01-19 In 85 new and updated essays this comprehensive volume provides anauthoritative guide to the philosophy of religion Includes contributions from established philosophers and risingstars 22 new entries have now been added and all material from the previous edition has been updated and reorganized Broad coverage spans the areas of world religions theism atheism the problem of evil science and religion andethics Kindness of God Janet Martin Soskice, 2007-12-14 Fathers sons brothers kings Does the predominantly masculine symbolism of the Biblical writings exclude women or overlook the riches of their spiritual life If Christ is the second Adam and the one on whom all Christian life must be patterned then what about Eve This book from a leading scholar of religious language and feminism opens up the Bible's imagery for sex gender and kinship and does so by discussing its place in the central teachings of Christian theology the doctrine of God and spirituality Imago Dei and anthropology Creation Christology and the Cross the Trinity and eschatology A New Identity of Obligation: Metaphors and Paul's Ethical Argument in Romans 6:1-14 Andrés D. Vera, 2025-06-19 In Romans 6 1 14 Paul corrects an erroneous ethical conclusion drawn from the narrative of God's grace in Romans 3.5 This innovative study employs tools from cognitive linguistics to unveil Paul's sophisticated rhetorical strategy for resolving the indicative imperative tension By moving beyond traditional theological frameworks the book shows how Paul presents believers new identity as defined by a new obligation illuminating the metaphorical narrative that undergirds Paul s logic Readers will better understand the importance of conceptual spaces like in sin and in Christ and how Paul conceptualizes the relationship between believers and their old selves who have been crucified

Unveiling the Energy of Verbal Art: An Psychological Sojourn through Metaphor And Religious Language

In a world inundated with screens and the cacophony of immediate communication, the profound power and emotional resonance of verbal art frequently disappear into obscurity, eclipsed by the continuous barrage of noise and distractions. However, nestled within the musical pages of **Metaphor And Religious Language**, a interesting function of literary brilliance that pulses with organic emotions, lies an unforgettable trip waiting to be embarked upon. Composed by a virtuoso wordsmith, that exciting opus books viewers on a psychological odyssey, softly revealing the latent possible and profound affect embedded within the elaborate internet of language. Within the heart-wrenching expanse with this evocative examination, we will embark upon an introspective exploration of the book is main themes, dissect its interesting writing model, and immerse ourselves in the indelible impact it leaves upon the depths of readers souls.

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