

Greek Philosophy as a Religious Quest for the Divine¹

James Bernard Murphy

ABSTRACT Philosophy has always been parasitic on other bodies of knowledge, especially religious thought. Greek philosophy in Italy emerged as a purification of Orphic religious traditions. Orphic votaries adopted various disciplines in the attempt to become divine, which led Pythagoras and Empedocles to define philosophy as a path to divinity. According to Plato and Aristotle, the goal of philosophy is to become “as much like a god as is humanly possible.” Classical Greek philosophy is not the study of the divine but the project of becoming divine, a project which it shares with Christianity. Greek philosophy and Christianity have different paths to the divine, but they share a common aspiration.

KEYWORDS deification; origins of Greek philosophy; philosophy as theology; metaphilosophy

1. In this essay, I draw freely from my forthcoming book, *Deification in Classical Greek Philosophy and the Bible* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2024).

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Religious Quest

William M. Epstein



Religious Quest:

Africa's Social and Religious Quest Randeé Ijatuyi-Morphé, 2014-01-30 This well crafted book probes the key dimensions of Africa's existential predicament. It constitutes an intellectual response to a gnawing African situation, the starting point for grasping Africa's social and religious quest. Beyond split explanations of external versus internal factors (e.g. colonization, slavery vs. leadership, cultural values), this study accounts more comprehensively for emergent issues shaping this situation. The situation reflects a gamut of problems in traditional African religion and material culture which hitherto defines African communality, politics, and destinies vis-à-vis the cosmos and nature. Thus African religion and communities, each with its own attendant values, do not operate by critical engagement with larger issues of society and civilization, especially those shaped by the advent of post-modernity. Rather, they operate via adaptation. The communal drive for natural and social harmony inevitably produces a preservationist view of culture, leaving things as they are. This study takes an integrative approach to religion, society, and civilization, eschewing dichotomies and broadly defines and re-signifies life and wholeness as a true end of Africa's quest today. The Religious Quest Whitfield Foy, 1988 The Religious Quests of the Graeco-Roman World Samuel Angus, 1929 **John Wesley's Religious Quest** Thomas Reed Jeffery, 1960 **Is the Quest for Meaning the Quest for God?** W. Stoker, 1996 Traditionally, religion was the supplier of meaning. It is often said that the quest for meaning is at bottom a quest for God, a quest that can only find an adequate answer in religion. But then what is the alternative for those who reject religion? Emptiness and meaninglessness, as Nietzsche succinctly formulated it: "We have killed God. Are we not straying as through an infinite nothing? In the meantime, non-believers have found a solution for the crisis in meaning. People are not usually nihilists; but live their lives and consider them to be meaningful without religion." This study is concerned with determining once again the place of the ascription of meaning from the perspective of the Christian faith in its relation to the non-religious ascription of meaning. For this purpose, an analysis is given of contemporary theological and philosophical views of the problem of meaning. The crisis of meaning, as it has arisen in Nietzsche and the theatre of the absurd, is examined. Stoker also discusses contemporary forms of the ascription of meaning without religion, such as self-actualization and functional rationality, as sources of meaning. Stoker rejects an apologetics of need. He posits that the Christian faith does not have an exclusive right to the ascription of meaning, but this obtains also for secular forms of the ascription of meaning, such as humanism. Is God then the ultimate concern of each person? From the perspective of the Christian faith, yes; but this does not mean that the non-religious ascription of meaning, as such, must be viewed negatively. Stoker illustrates how the religious and the non-religious ascriptions of meaning are similar and how they differ. Both are intended to be the source of meaning for human questions of life and death. With respect to their differences, the author demonstrates that the ascription of meaning from the perspective of the Christian faith does not entail a disqualification of a non-religious worldview, but is intended to make people more human. **Malthus, Medicine & Morality** Brian Dolan, 2000

Thomas Robert Malthus's reputation has lately been rehabilitated in the fields of social biology, demography, environmentalism, and economics. In the midst of this current interest and with the chance to mark the occasion of the bicentenary of the first edition of the *Essay on Population* (1798), the contributors to this volume take this timely opportunity to examine the historical conditions in which Malthus constructed his theory and in which the concept of a Malthusian and Neo-Malthusian philosophy first emerged. The essays redress the balance between Malthus's original argument, the immediate responses to Malthus by medics and theologians in Britain and on the Continent, and some of the ways that his ideas were later attacked, appropriated, or misrepresented. Included here are essays that not only re-evaluate the development of Malthus's theory but also offer critical perspectives on the generation of the Malthusian league and debates about birth control in Britain and on the Continent, and Malthus's influence on the emergence of social science and Darwinian evolutionary biology.

Handbook of Religion and Health Harold G. Koenig, Tyler J. VanderWeele, John R. Peteet, 2024. Beginning with a Foreword by Dr Howard K. Koh, former US Assistant Secretary for Health for the Department of Health and Human Services, this volume examines almost every aspect of health, reviewing past and more recent research on the relationship between religion and health outcomes.

Is the Quest for Meaning the Quest for God? Wessel Stoker, 1993. *The Gospel of John and the Religious Quest* Johannes Nissen, 2013-09-24. *The Gospel of John and the Religious Quest* argues that at its origin the Fourth Gospel was part of a dialogue with various religious traditions and that to this day it is being used in active dialogue with those who live in traditions other than the Christian. In the first part of the book, Johannes Nissen analyzes a number of texts selected both for their central importance to John's theology and for their special relevance in today's religious quests and encounters. These texts focus on John's images of Life, water, bread, light, way, and tree, but also treat concepts that are crucial to the Fourth Gospel: Word, Truth, and Love. In the second part, Nissen focuses on significant issues for current readers of the Gospel: the relation between incarnation and inculturation, models for dialogue with other religions, images of Christ, truth, and love as criteria for dialogue, and the experience of faith in the light of the Fourth Gospel.

Handbook of Assessment in Mindfulness Research Oleg N. Medvedev, Christian U. Krägeloh, Richard J. Siegert, Nirbhay N. Singh, 2025-08-03. This handbook provides comprehensive coverage of assessment instruments used in mindfulness research. It discusses traditional and modern approaches used to develop psychometric measures and to establish their reliability and validity, such as classical test theory, item response theory, and Rasch model, generalizability theory, facet benchmarking, and network analysis. The handbook provides information on conceptual foundations, development, and psychometric properties of assessment instruments used to measure mindfulness in children, adolescents, and adults. In addition, it provides similar information on scales used in specific contexts and for various purposes. It reviews behavioral, cognitive, and psychophysiological assessment measures of mindfulness. The handbook examines a broad range of psychological, physical health, and mental health and related measures that are used in mindfulness research. This reference work enables researchers to choose appropriate

measurement tools for a broad range of mindfulness research. Key areas of coverage include Nature and theoretical foundations of assessment, Origins and definitions of mindfulness, Mindfulness scales for children and adolescents, Mindfulness scales for adults, Mindfulness scales for specific contexts and purposes, Mindfulness and Buddhist related scales, Behavioral assessments of mindfulness, Cognitive and psychophysiological assessments of mindfulness. *The Handbook of Assessment in Mindfulness Research* is an essential reference for researchers, professors and graduate students as well as clinicians, therapists and other mental health practitioners in clinical psychology and affiliated medical and mental health disciplines including complementary and alternative medicine, social work, occupational and rehabilitation therapy.

Iddushim Michael Fishbane, Arthur Green, Jonathan D. Sarna, 2022-05-17. A Centennial writes Hebrew College President Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld is an invitation to reflect on the last century of teaching and learning at Hebrew College to ask ourselves what has changed and what has endured to explore accomplishments and share ongoing struggles to articulate our aspirations for the next one hundred years. A compilation of captivating essays on Jewish studies alongside powerful personal memoirs from the College's earliest years until today, *iddushim* captures and celebrates the spirit of a learning community connected to its source and brimming with spiritual and intellectual creativity as it carries forward its legacy of rootedness and renewal into the future.

Religion and Technology in the 21st Century: Faith in the E-World George, Susan Ella, 2006-05-31. This book examines the unique synergy between religion and technology and explores the many ways that technology is shaping religious expression as well as ways that religion is coming to influence technology. Provided by publisher.

Creation and Salvation: Dialogue on Abraham Kuyper's Legacy for Contemporary Ecotheology Ernst Marais Conradie, 2011-03-21. This volume explores the legacy of the Dutch theologian and statesman Abraham Kuyper for contemporary Christian ecotheology. A crucial problem in ecotheology is how to do justice to both creation and salvation as acts of God given the impact of the environmental crisis and the concern for creation as *creatura*. Can Kuyper help one in this regard given his controversial legacy especially in South Africa? The volume explores Kuyper's notions of revelation, common grace and re-creation on this basis. It is structured as an inter-continental dialogue with a set of essays by Ernst Conradie, responses from Clifford Anderson, Vincent Bacote, Hans Engdahl, Dirk van Keulen, Cornelis van der Kooi, Benjamin Myers, Leslie van Rooi and Gnter Thomas and a rejoinder.

Routledge Revivals: Paul Tillich (1973) Alistair M. Macleod, 2017-09-29. First published in 1973, this is the first book on Paul Tillich in which a sustained attempt is made to sort out and evaluate the questions to which Tillich addresses himself in the crucial philosophical parts of his theological system. It is argued that despite the apparent simplicity in his interest in the question of being, Tillich in fact conceives of the ontological enterprise in a number of radically different ways in different contexts. Much of Professor Macleod's work is devoted to the careful separation of these strands in his philosophical thought and to an exploration and assessment of the assumptions associated with them. This book will be of interest to readers of Tillich and philosophers who specialise in

ontology and linguistics *The God/Man/World Triangle* R. Crawford,1997-10-06 Why is there a world Does it reflect the presence of God in any way Did the world spontaneously come into existence or is there a creator How will it end Does God Exist Do religions give a coherent view of His existence and nature Can we enter into relation with Him Robert Crawford tries to answer these and other questions by arguing that religion and science complement one another and while they use different sources and methods insights can be gleaned from both concerning our nature the world and God Major attention is given to Christianity because modern science arose in that context but the discussion includes the teachings of five other religions in the hope that we can also learn from them *Man's Religious Quest* Whitfield Foy,1977 *Religion and Hip Hop* Monica R. Miller,2013 This title brings together the category of religion hip hop cultural modalities and the demographic of youth Bringing postmodern theory and critical approaches in the study of religion to bear on hip hop cultural practices the book examines how scholars in have deployed and approached religion when analyzing hip hop data **A Companion to T. S. Eliot** David E. Chinitz,2014-02-03 Reflecting the surge of critical interest in Eliot renewed in recent years A Companion to T S Eliot introduces the new Eliot to readers and educators by examining the full body of his works and career Leading scholars in the field provide a fresh and fully comprehensive collection of contextual and critical essays on his life and achievement It compiles the most comprehensive and up to date treatment available of Eliot s work and career It explores the powerful forces that shaped Eliot as a writer and thinker analyzing his body of work and assessing his oeuvre in a variety of contexts historical cultural social and philosophical It charts the surge in critical interest in T S Eliot since the early 1990s It provides an illuminating insight into a poet writer and critic who continues to define the literary landscape of the last century **The Masses are the Ruling Classes** William M. Epstein,2017 *The Masses are the Ruling Classes* argues that popular sentiments rule social decision making and that elites are essentially obedient to democratic preferences and not the other way around The US is deeply committed to a series of values extreme individualism emotional sources of truth and a sense of chosenness that stunt its social development These ideas are developed in the context of iconic social welfare programs **Science and the Spiritual Quest** W. Mark Richardson,2002 Addressing fundamental questions about life this unique volume examines the way in which distinguished scientists of different faiths explore the connections between science ethics spirituality and the divine

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