

# CONTENTS

Preface	xiii
I. THE PHILOSOPHIC FLIGHT	
1 Philosophical psychology	1
2 The psychology of truth	3
3 Style	4
4 The philosopher's dilemma	5
5 The philosophic flight	6
6 A series of etchings	7
7 Hegel and Nietzsche	8
8 Why most philosophers cannot laugh	9
9 What long aphorisms can mean	10
10 Relativity and criticism	12
II. POSITIVISM AND EXISTENTIALISM	
11 Two revolts	15
12 Analytic philosophy	16
13 Existentialism	19
14 Two timeless tendencies	22
15 Empiricism as empiricide	25
16 Plato's vision of man	27
17 The British vision of man	30
18 Donnish doubt	34
19 Wittgenstein	37
20 Wittgenstein and Socrates	40
21 Followers	43

## CONTENTS

### III. TRUTH, LANGUAGE, AND EXPERIENCE

22	Truth; True and false	45
23	The aspiration for truth	45
24	Truth and correctness	47
25	Truth and meaning, or: How to read a philosopher	50
26	Theories of truth	53
27	Words and experience	56
28	Language and emotion	57
29	"Love"	59
30	Words as categories	61
31	Works of art as categories	66
32	Common sense	67

### IV. RELIGION, FAITH, AND EVIDENCE

33	Definitions of religion	72
34	Religion at the bar	74
35	"Subjective" truth	77
36	Knowledge, belief, and faith	78
37	Faith, evidence, and James	82
38	Three types of religious propositions	86
39	Recourse to revelation or miracles	89
40	Faith and its causes: contra James	92
41	Seven causes	94
42	Freud and wishful thinking	96

### V. THE GOD OF THE PHILOSOPHERS

43	Godless religions	98
44	Plato's proof that gods exist	99
45	St. Thomas Aquinas	102
46	Perfection and the ontological argument	116
47	Kant's postulate	118
48	Can one prove God's existence?	120
49	Pascal's wager	121

## CONTENTS

### VI. GOD, AMBIGUITY, AND THEOLOGY

50	God and ambiguity	124
51	The ambiguity of dogma	130
52	Analogy	131
53	Symbols: contra Tillich	135
54	Demythologizing and valuations	141
55	Contra Bultmann	147
56	Gerrymandering	157
57	Theology	158

### VII. SATANIC INTERLUDE, OR HOW TO GO TO HELL

58	Dialogue between Satan and a Theologian	163
59	Dialogue between Satan and a Christian	173
60	Dialogue between Satan and an Atheist	182

### VIII. TRUTH IN THREE RELIGIONS

61	Religion and truth	185
62	Buddhism and truth	186
63	Zen Buddhism and truth	187
64	Judaism and truth	190
65	Jewish and Christian faith	197
66	Infidel piety	203
67	Liberal Protestantism and truth	204
68	Reinhold Niebuhr and truth	210
69	A Platonic error, reason, and Christianity	216
70	Christianity and truth	221

### IX. THE CORE OF RELIGION

71	Claims for mysticism	224
72	Ineffability	225
73	Mysticism as a historical phenomenon	229
74	Criteria of mystical experience	231
75	The experience of inspiration	234
76	Mysticism, inspiration, and religion	235

## CONTENTS

77	Contra Fromm: religion and tragedy	236
78	Religion and loyalty	247
79	Thomist versus non-Thomist	248
80	Loyalty and truth	249
81	Religion, aspiration, and the holy	252
82	Otherworldliness	256
83	Religion and poetry	256
X. SCRIPTURES AND POETRY, OR HOW TO READ THE BIBLE		
84	Inexhaustibility	263
85	The psychology of interpretation	263
86	Explanation	264
87	Inconsistencies	265
88	<i>Quellenscheidung</i>	268
89	The two Mosaic theories	270
90	Religion and progress	276
91	The Gospels and poetry	279
92	A Buddhist text	282
93	Against eclecticism	289
XI. REASON AND EROS		
94	Plato as educator	292
95	The uncloistered virtue	293
96	Kant and Freud	294
97	Freud and aspiration	297
98	Man's ontological interest	301
99	Reason and aspiration	307
100	Epitaph	308
	Bibliography	309
	Index	321