Contents

Introduction —— 1

1 Nature —— 16
  1.1 An analogy — 16
  1.2 Categorial form — 17
  1.3 Selves — 40
  1.4 Society and culture — 46
  1.5 Summary — 48

2 Silent Conditions —— 49
  2.1 Conditions that elude observation — 49
  2.2 Examples — 50
  2.3 Rationales — 51
  2.4 Appraisal — 55
  2.5 Attitudes — 58

3 Existence Proofs —— 60
  3.1 Self-perception — 60
  3.2 Ephemeral conscious data — 65
  3.3 Percepts — 65
  3.4 Material objects and constraints — 65
  3.5 Emotion — 66
  3.6 Intuition — 66
  3.7 A priori existence proofs — 67
  3.8 Remarks — 83

4 Other Ontologies —— 85
  4.1 Illusion — 85
  4.2 Construction — 88
  4.3 Theism — 99
  4.4 Ontology and value — 102

5 Meaning, value, and truth —— 104
  5.1 Problematic — 104
  5.2 Context — 105
  5.3 Meaning — 109
  5.4 Significance — 115
5.5 Value — 116
5.6 Value's relation to meaning and significance — 118
5.7 Truth — 120
5.8 Meaning/significance or truth — 122
5.9 Is science indifferent to meaning and value? — 125
5.10 Mysteries and mythologies — 127

6 Practical Life — 128
6.1 Overview — 128
6.2 Needs and wants — 130
6.3 Action — 134
6.4 Error — 135
6.5 Systems and their meanings — 136
6.6 Two perspectives — 138
6.7 Ethical practice — 139
6.8 Culture — 142
6.9 Innovation/Distraction — 145

7 Mental functions — 147
7.1 Meaning — 147
7.2 Valuation — 159

8 Last thoughts — 171
8.1 Contingency — 171
8.2 Spirituality — 176
8.3 A paradox — 177

Bibliography — 179

Index — 183