

Front	Back
What is the apophatic way?	The apophatic way, or via negativa, is the approach to religious language that describes God by negation, stating what God is not rather than what God is.
What is the cataphatic way?	The cataphatic way, or via positiva, is an approach to religious language that speaks about God in positive terms, affirming what God is.
Who is associated with the analogy of attribution and analogy of proper proportion?	Thomas Aquinas is associated with the analogy of attribution and analogy of proper proportion.
What is the analogy of attribution?	The analogy of attribution suggests that qualities in humans, such as goodness, are reflections of qualities that exist perfectly in God.

Front

Back

What is the analogy of proper proportion?

The analogy of proper proportion proposes that attributes such as wisdom and love can be understood in proportion to the nature of the being in question, with God possessing these attributes infinitely.

What is a symbol in religious language?

A symbol in religious language is a representation that points beyond itself to a deeper, often transcendent meaning or reality.

Who is associated with the view that theological language is almost entirely symbolic?

Paul Tillich is associated with the view that theological language is almost entirely symbolic.

What did Tillich mean by “symbols participate in that to which they point”?

Tillich meant that symbols are not arbitrary; they engage with and reveal aspects of the reality they represent.

Front	Back
Give an example of a religious symbol.	The cross in Christianity is a religious symbol representing both suffering and redemption.
What is a criticism of the via negativa?	A criticism of the via negativa is that it provides no positive content about God and can leave believers with an unclear understanding of divine attributes.
What is a strength of the via positiva?	A strength of the via positiva is that it enables believers to speak meaningfully and positively about God, fostering a sense of personal connection.
What is a criticism of religious symbols?	A criticism of religious symbols is that they can be interpreted differently by different people, potentially leading to misunderstanding or misrepresentation.

Front

Back

What did Aquinas argue about univocal and equivocal language?

Aquinas argued that univocal language (same meaning) is too limiting for God, while equivocal language (different meanings) makes God unknowable, so analogy is best.

What is the purpose of analogy in religious language?

Analogy helps to bridge the gap between finite human understanding and the infinite nature of God, enabling meaningful discussion about divine attributes.

What is a strength of Tillich's symbolic approach?

A strength of Tillich's symbolic approach is that it acknowledges the limitations of language while allowing for profound, multi-layered meanings.

Why might some argue that religious language must be symbolic?

Some argue that religious language must be symbolic because finite human concepts cannot fully capture the infinite and transcendent nature of God.

Front

Back

What role does faith play in understanding religious language?

Faith plays a role in understanding religious language as it allows believers to accept and engage with meanings that transcend literal descriptions.

What is one challenge of interpreting analogical language about God?

One challenge is that analogical language may still be too vague or open to misinterpretation, leading to confusion about God's nature.