

## Generic Philosophical Monotheism

By reducing the beliefs of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam to their lowest common denominator we can derive what some philosophers call “generic philosophical monotheism”. The **key beliefs of generic philosophical monotheism** concern the existence and nature of God. Yandell: “The claim *X is God* is to be understood as entailing each of the following claims:

1. *X is necessarily ontologically independent* (i.e., X exists, and it is logically impossible that X depends for existence on anything).
2. *X is self-conscious* (i.e., is conscious and aware of himself or herself as such; thus X is a person).
3. *X is transcendent* (i.e., X is not identical to the world and God does not depend on the world for existence or powers).
4. *X is the highest being* (i.e., the most valuable, greatest, or best).” (See Keith E. Yandell, *Philosophy of Religion: A Contemporary Introduction* (London: Routledge, 2002, p. 85).

The most fundamental question, then, will be: Is there an *X* as specified in claims 1-4? Thus, arguments for and against the existence of God play a prominent role in Western philosophy of religion.