

Capturing the Ineffable

An Anthropology of Wisdom

EDITED BY PHILIP Y. KAO
AND JOSEPH S. ALTER

PHILOSOPHY AND
RELIGIOUS STUDIES
ASSOCIATION

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS
Toronto Buffalo London

Contents

Acknowledgments vii

Introduction: Towards an Anthropology of Wisdom 3
PHILIP Y. KAO

Part One: Seeking Wisdom

- 1 Revelations of Delusion: Becoming Isomorphic to the Urgrund with Philip K. Dick 27
RICHARD DOYLE
- 2 The Social Life of the Inexpressible: English Benedictine Mysticism, the Ineffable, and the Sublime 45
RICHARD D.G. IRVINE

Part Two: Discerning Wisdom

- 3 How Wisdom Is Discovered: Discretion and Emotional Insights in Naikan Meditation in Japan 67
CLARK CHILSON
- 4 Navigating Wisdom and Time: Reflections on Aging and Eldercare 82
PHILIP Y. KAO

Part Three: Transmitting Wisdom

- 5 Yoga and Wisdom: Reflections on the Body at the Intersection of Epistemology and Ontology 103

JOSEPH S. ALTER

- 6 Social Construction of Wisdom in Institutions 122

CHARLOTTE LINDE

Part Four: Narrating Wisdom

- 7 Of Uncertainty, Sophiology, and Governance: Zen and the Art of Scenario Planning 155

JAMES D. FAUBION

- 8 Grappling with the Ineffable in Three African Situations: An Ethnographic Approach 179

WIM M.J. VAN BINSBERGEN

Contributors 243

Index 247