

## Winnowing Wittgenstein: What's Worth Salvaging from the Wreck of the *Tractatus*

Peter Simons

Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

Wittgenstein's *Tractatus* still harbours valuable lessons for contemporary philosophy, but which ones? Wittgenstein's long list of things we cannot speak about is set aside, but his insistence that the logical constants do not represent is retained, as is the absolute distinction between names and sentences. We preserve his atomism of elementary sentences but discard the atomism of simple objects in states of affairs. The fundamental harmony between language and the world is rejected: it is the source of much that is wrong in the *Tractatus*. What remains is a clarified role for items in making elementary sentences true.