

God as a Moral Agent (1)

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Abstract:

This article reports the first part of an extensive research on the nature of God's agency. The two main questions of this research are:

- (1) Is God a moral agent?
- (2) If so, is divine morality the same as human morality or does divine morality differ from human morality, either wholly or partially?

Regarding the first question, the author examines three rival theories: "God as an autocratic agent", "God as a pragmatic agent" and "God as a moral agent". In this research, the idea of God as a moral agent will be argued for, and the other two conceptions of the nature of divine agency will be argued against. Regarding the second question, the author defends the theory that divine morality and human morality have no difference in terms of their "normative content", although they have considerable differences in other respects.

The first part of this research, presented in this article, after stating the preliminaries, deals with the theory of "God as an autocratic agent" and critically examines some of the arguments made or that could be made in favor of this conception of the nature of God. The second and third parts of this research, which will be published as separate articles in forthcoming issues of this journal, will elaborate on the other two conceptions of the nature of divine agency.

Keywords: God and Morality; Religion and Morality; Divine Agency; Divine Nature; Autocratic God.

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