

Notes On Theism - 1

Theism - the doctrine that there is one God, creator and ruler of the universe, who is perfect in every way, personal, worthy of worship, separate from the world and concerned with human affairs.

Pantheism - the idea that there is one God who (which) is identical with, not separate from, the world.

Atheism - the denial of the existence of God (or, the rejection of theism).

Deism - the doctrine that there is one God who created the world but who is no longer concerned or involved with it.

Magic and magical power - the attempt to coerce supernatural powers to do human bidding. It is commonly claimed that religion is unlike magic in that, in religion, there is no attempt to coerce or use sacred power but there may be attempts to persuade, please and find favor with the divine.

Animism - belief that spirits or powers inhabit various objects or animals. It is common for animism to incorporate both magical and religious practices.

Polytheism - belief in many gods, often having different functions in relation to different natural phenomena, places, times or objects.

Henotheism - belief that each tribe or people has its own god, and territory.

Monotheism - Same as Theism, above. As a development out of henotheism, monotheism implies that all humans belong to the same family. Monotheism tends to oppose the common human tendency to **ethnocentrism**, the belief that individuals not of one's own tribe, race or clan are radically different from oneself, perhaps inferior or even subhuman.

Essential attributes of the god of theism

Omnipotence - literally means "able to do all".

God's greatness is usually taken to mean that nothing is impossible for God. That He is all-powerful; that He is the creator of all things, depending on nothing but His own creative power ; that everything other than God depends for its existence on His power; that God's choices are not limited in any way.

possible objects, events or states of affairs (those which do or could exist)

impossible objects, events or states of affairs (those which cannot exist)

States of affairs are **compossible** when they are *not incompatible* and it is possible for both to exist at once.

Collections of compossible states of affairs may be called **possible worlds**

Unrestricted interpretation of omnipotence ?

God cannot create impossible worlds?

Possibility and impossibility are *not* determined by the will and power of God?

Logical or mathematical impossibility

Time-bound impossibility

“paradox of omnipotence”: the issue of whether a being that might be *initially* omnipotent can *continue* to be omnipotent.

Does omnipotence imply the power to limit one's own power?

Can God prevent himself from doing certain things by imposing obligations on himself?

Can an omnipotent God create an orderly, ongoing world?

The issue of future contingents? (Future states of affairs which are neither necessary nor impossible).

Whether the laws that regulate events in an orderly world exist independently of God's will or are established by God's will, it seems that all events in an orderly world are determined.

Is Divine omnipotence compatible with Human Freedom?

If all events were determined by God, not only would there be no freedom for creatures, no agent could properly be said to be responsible for his or her actions.

Predestinationists vs compatibilists

Impeccability: Can God Sin?

Universals (the objective natures of things). and natural impossibility

Omniscience - literally, “all-knowing” (without restriction).

Can God know Future Contingent Events?

Does God Transcend Time? Does God know all Time as an Eternal Now?

**Divine Goodness- Omnibenevolence
(wishing the well-being of all)**

Eternity, Simplicity and Immutability vs Personhood