

A comparison of Mulla Sadra's and William Rowe's Perspectives on “God's Freedom”

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Abstract

Mulla Sadra and William Rowe, representing divergent philosophical traditions, addressed the issue of "God's freedom" and arrived at disparate conclusions. Both philosophers concur that God's will for the creation of the world possesses an eternal necessity. However, their dissimilarity arises from Mulla Sadra's adherence to a compatibilist perspective on freedom. He believes that as in the case of man, where the necessity *per aliud* of the will does not conflict with the freedom, in the case of God, the eternal necessity of the will does not conflict with his freedom. Conversely, William Rowe, an advocate of the libertarian concept of freedom, posits that the eternal necessity of God's will leaves no room for His freedom. Drawing a parallel between the necessity *per aliud* in human beings and the eternal necessity in God, according to Rowe, is an erroneous analogy. In this article, through an examination of these philosophers' arguments, we arrive at the stance that William Rowe's position holds greater defensibility. Firstly, his viewpoint aligns more harmoniously with our linguistic and moral intuitions. Secondly, there are sound justifications for distinguishing between necessity *per aliud* and eternal necessity, in terms of determinism

Keywords

Mollasadra; William Rowe; God's freedom; necessity; possibility.

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