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The Justification of Moral Sacrifice in the Scriptures of the Abrahamic Religions

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Abstract

What drives a person to engage in actions that not only offer no personal benefit but also potentially cause harm, while only benefiting others? The sacred scriptures of the Abrahamic religions address this question by highlighting a triangular relationship between God, humanity, and others. It is emphasized that individuals should perform acts of kindness towards others for the sake of God, with the expectation of receiving divine rewards. Ultimately, it is the genuine and true essence of a human being that reaps the benefits of living an ethical life. While this answer forms the basis for ethical conduct, it does not completely resolve the underlying complexities. While it is true that these sacred texts present a triangular relationship, it is not the primary or ultimate objective for individuals to live ethically solely for themselves, even in alignment with their authentic selves. Rather, the ideal aim is for individuals to pursue goodness for the sake of goodness itself, recognizing the divine spark within them. According to the interpretation of the Noble Quran, it is inherent in human nature to incline towards righteousness.

Keywords

Ethics, sacred scriptures, Abrahamic faiths, selflessness, justification of sacrifice.

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