

An Interdisciplinary Analysis of Blame Mechanisms and Recursive Consequences in Moral Philosophy, Psychology, and Narratives

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Abstracts

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In religious and ethical literature, contemptuous blame of others is sometimes associated with the concept of *ibtīlā'* (affliction), meaning that the one who blames may himself become exposed to the very error or lapse for which he has reproached another. The problem of the present research is whether this narrative theme can be reread, alongside its religious and ethical understanding, from the perspective of philosophical, ethical, and psychological mechanisms. Employing an analytical-comparative method and an interdisciplinary approach, this article seeks to examine the relationship among contemptuous blame, self-neglect, moral self-deception, diminished self-monitoring, and moral vulnerability. In this vein, a distinction is first drawn among moral judgment, corrective reminder, social blame, reproach, and contemptuous censure, so as to clarify that the article's principal subject is a form of blame accompanied by contempt, self-superiority, and neglect of the self. It is then shown that such blame can render a person more vulnerable to the very same error by weakening self-awareness, generating a sense of moral immunity, activating defense mechanisms, and reducing self-care. The finding of the research is that the concept of *ibtīlā'* can be understood, in addition to its religious reading, on an ethical, philosophical, and psychological level as well - without this rereading entailing the negation or invalidation of the theological and religious interpretation of the narrations.

Keywords

Blame, consequence, censure, self-neglect, moral philosophy, moral psychology, religious ethics.

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