

a Role of Reason, Revelation & Faith in Religious Philosophy

⇒ Religion, Theology, Religious Phil. -

Religion -

- ✓ system of believed experience
- ✓ self-involvement with object of religious devotion
- ✓ Faith & full commitment
- ✓ A theist talks to God
- ✓ First order statements
- ✓ With or without God

Theology -

- ✓ Interpretation of religious experience in cultural context
- ✓ Clarifications often made in context of one's religious commitment - defending religious beliefs
- ✓ Corresponding to various religions there are various theologies
- ✓ Second order statements with religion as the subject matter
- ✓ A theistic theologian talks of God with reverence & piety
- ✓ Not a disinterested study as theologian has to practice self-involvement & commitment.

Religious belief:-

Foundation of religious beliefs-

Accepted by religious thinkers as a priori - sth inherent in human which prompt him heavenward -
Gives rise to religious beliefs

Believe in :-

- ✓ Attitude of a person - Trust is strong - Coming from inside - faith
- ✓ Believe in god with whole heart cannot be reduced to believe that
- ✓ highly affective

Believe that

- ✓ Coming from outside source - reason may be demanded
- ✓ Comparatively weak trust

Belief in reason based, can be changed after arguments & may have neutrality - but faith is emotion based, cannot be changed & have self-involvement

⇒ Faith

- ✓ a commitment, allegiance, a sense of loyalty, devotion & dedication to object of faith.

- ✓ necessary & sufficient condition for religious life - there can be no religion without faith
- ✓ direct relation between gravity of religious life & depth of faith
- ✓ faith implies action, a source of inspiration & mode of self surrender
- ✓ Kant - faith has subjective certainty sufficient for action, but insufficient for objective knowledge
- ✓ in faith not a mind, but a person reasons - faith cannot be reduced to scientific knowledge
- ✓ function of faith is not to know so much as it has to do with becoming the man himself like Buddha Christ etc.

⇒ Reason

- ✓ Tends to set one well established in his belief in the deity he worships
- ✓ Helps in selection of his deity among different religions & within the religion itself
- ✓ Helps in conceptualization of momentary glimpse of experience in extraordinary
- ✓ Reason has to be advanced in favor of one's interpretation of holy scriptures

✓ Reason by itself cannot originate faith, though it ~~can~~ can be used either to strengthen it or weaken it.

Reason is an involvement of a questioning mind to logically enquire & understand what is being told or given. Reason is the application of common sense in matters of faith and belief. Reason is a scientific & systematic process of knowing more about ourselves. Faith begins, where reason ends.

⇒ Faith & Reason

Traditionally, faith & reason have each been considered to be sources of justification for religious beliefs. Some have held that there can be no conflict between the 2 whereas others have maintained that faith & reason can be in genuine contention over certain propositions.

It's however possible to hold a religious belief simple on the basis either of faith alone or reason alone - one can even lack faith in God or deny his existence, but can still find solace in practice of religion.

System of faith & reason comes from the revelations by the divine entities on which most religions are based, which are often immune to rational evaluation.

Rational validation view of faith: - holds that reason can or should be used to justify religious faith by looking for God's existence, or for reincarnation etc.

Non evidential view of faith: - holds that reason should not be used to justify religious faith. This view does not deny the use of reason for understanding religious beliefs but deny that holding any religious beliefs is dependent upon having reasons or evidences.

Fideism: -

- ✓ Deems it inappropriate to rationally justify one's religious beliefs or faith for example Kierkegaard.
- ✓ It holds that no solid proofs for religious faiths even if there were, would be unhelpful for developing religious faith.
- ✓ Gulf between transcendent God and man cannot be bridged by rational thinking but only by leap of faith.
- ✓ Kant - I have to destroy reason to make room for faith.

Fideism holds that reason must submit to revelation, & thus faith, whereas some others accept the primacy of reason. Thomas Aquinas, on the other hand, sought to maintain the primacy of faith without sacrificing the dignity of reason, & says that reason makes it possible for the believer to understand, in some measure, the revealed mysteries.

Reason leads to our belief that sth is true while revelation is the only basis for belief in that truth. A believer finds reasonable support for his faith in experiential & historical evidence & miracles & phil. Faith is prior to reason religiously, but reason is prior to faith scientifically.

⇒ Revelation & Faith

If revelation is work of God, then faith is the receptivity of man to acknowledge this revelation, thus, revelation & faith are correlative. It is on the basis of faith that revelation is accepted. Faith has the same place in religion which reason has in philosophy. Faith is very core & heart of religion. To think of a faithless religious person is merely a contradiction.

proved as merely an idea only, but this will not establish the fact of God's existence of personal being for ex: - ontological argument

→ inductive proof :-

It is a posteriori & starts from sth observable, but God is not an observable entity, even in principle. A god who can be sensed or observed is not an infinite god, but an observable object that can be limited to a certain span of space & time - such god becomes an idol. Here, God is proved on the basis of observations & evidences, thus, at most analogies may be used to prove the existence of God like wrist watch in design argument, or cosmological causal argument; but it never leads to certainty.

"Thus, no amount of observation or reason of this world can yield any proof or conclusion regarding God, either deductively or inductively"

It is as the ~~Kantian~~ ^{Kantian} says, if God does not exist it would of course be impossible to prove it; & if he does exist it will be a folly to attempt it.

→ Critic of revelations

- ✓ not verifiable simply because it cannot be
- ✓ has no meaning to a person who has no faith in God or supernatural entity. Source of knowledge - God is itself a debatable issue. God & such related things are accepted solely on the basis of faith.
- ✓ Great variations & even contradictions among various scriptures among different as well as within the same religion, thus difficult to judge which is certain & irrefutable truth.