

## Religion and Reason

Philosophy 513, Fall 2018

Thursdays 1.30-4.30 pm, 201 Marx Hall, Princeton University

Hans Halvorson and Mark Johnston will explore strongly opposed views concerning the relation between religion and reason.

Mark will defend an explicit onto-theology, arguing first, in the fashion of Kant, that it is the only foundation for an objective ethical outlook; second, that belief in God (as distinguished from any of the idol gods of the actually existing religions) is supported by the best version of the principle of sufficient reason when combined with a "Reverse-Pascal" argument for the belief's practical importance; third, that there is indeed a chance of a reasonable theodicy of evil, but only in the wake of an adequate etiology of evil.

Hans will develop and defend an apparently antipodal view: Kierkegaard's rejection of (Hegelian) onto-theology. We will give special care to placing Kierkegaard into his scientific, philosophical, and cultural context. Doing so will allow us to see which disagreements between MJ and SK are merely verbal, and which represent a genuine parting of ways.

The first six weeks of the seminar will proceed as follows:

"The Hard God: Onto-theology as an Antidote for Idolatry"

Week 1: (Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>) Only an Onto-theology can save Ethical Theory

Week 2: Why did the One not Remain within Itself?

Week 3: Against Theological Meliorism: What was God's Reason for Creating?

Week 4: Is Hope for Another Life Rational?

Week 5: A New Refutation of Pascal's Wager and a New Defense of his Conclusion

Week 6: How did Evil come into the World?