

The Unreasonableness of Theological Fatalism

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Abstract: It is argued that there cannot be theological fatalism.

Keywords: God, omniscient being, theological fatalism.

The core argument for theological fatalism is the thesis that what is true cannot be false.¹ So that, if an omniscient being knows that p will be the case then it cannot be that p will not be the case. But then, one has no choice but to abide by the truth of p.

What may not have been noticed is that the thesis that if p is true then p cannot be false allows no exception. Hence no omniscient being whose foreknowledge is incompatible with freedom can be God. For such an omniscient being would be impotent, a being no less free than us mortals. Hence there can be no theological fatalism. For again, no being free to choose can know the future.²

This will still allow the religious to believe that nothing can happen in the universe without God's acquiescence or will. God plans but God can change his mind and is thus able to forgive.

References

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¹ See Blum 2011.

² See Blum 2018.