

Analysis on Kierkegaard's Criticism of The Ontological Proof of God in Religious Epistemology

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Abstract: Taking Spinoza as an example, Kierkegaard criticized the ontological proof of God as tautology, believing that it was trapped in the conceptual argument of God and forgot the "real existence" of God. This is because man's dogmatism -- man's language can express the perfection of God. Thomas Aquinas' grasp of the perfection of God in "the way of eminence" is a typical manifestation of dogmatism, which is essentially tautology. Anselm's argument reveals the hidden reason for this dogmatism, which equates understanding with faith and believes that faith can be achieved through rational cognition. Kierkegaard believed that faith endows rational cognition with passion, and only in the action of passion can human beings have relations with God become possible, and eliminate the absurdity of people's cognition of God.

Keywords: The Ontological Proof of God, Ideal Existence, Real Existence, Rational Cognition, Passion