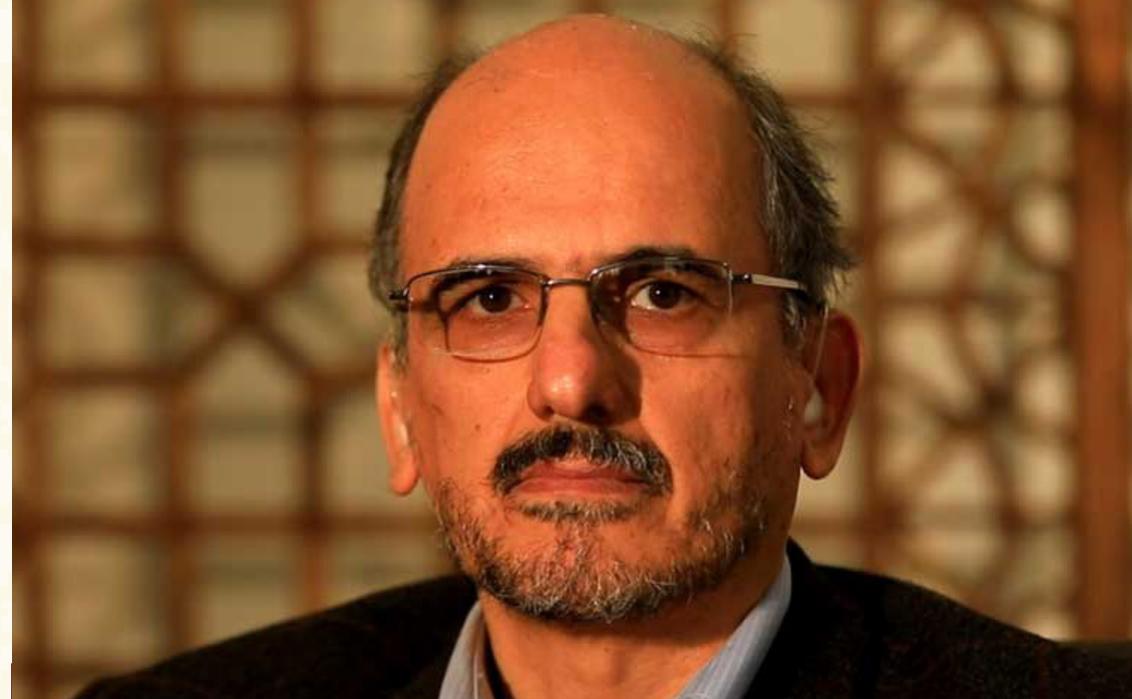


Dr Ali Fanaei

God as a Moral Agent

The nature of God and His attributes are two of the most fundamental questions and major points of dispute in mysticism, theology, and philosophy of religion. Alongside their theoretical importance, the answer that we give to these two questions has a profound practical significance for both private and public aspects of our way of life. This is because believing or disbelieving in God is not normatively neutral and He is not just a subject matter of a proposition we believe. Rather, our conception of God is value-laden and He is a subject or object of worshiping. We become like whom we worship. Hence, the God of a liberal believer is liberal in the same way in which the God of a totalitarian believer is totalitarian.

There are different conceptions of God articulated by different theologians, mystics and philosophers, and these conceptions have different theoretical implications for our worldview and different practical consequences for how we live. This is true not only for those who believe in God, but also for those who disbelieve in Him. In particular, our conception of God is associated with our understanding of politics, morality, and moral education. In this article I will try to reflect upon a particular conception of God that one may refer to as “God as a moral agent” and elaborate on the practical implications of seeing God in this way for the life of religious people.



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