

Preface

The questions that this essay aims to answer are questions about God. Obviously they arose for me not in a vacuum but in the context of my own religious beliefs. I am a Roman Catholic, and the conception of God that I take for granted in this essay is thus a Christian conception. For the most part, though, my arguments do not appeal to claims about God that are affirmed by Christianity but denied by either of the other Abrahamic faiths, and I take it that for the most part my arguments could be as easily addressed to those whose conception of God is that of Judaism or Islam as to those whose conception of God is that of Christianity. Indeed, so long as the reader is willing to work with a conception of God on which God is omniscient, omnipotent, perfectly good, and the creator of the world, the arguments that I offer will engage him or her on familiar ground.

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I am most indebted to my wife, Jeanette, who is to me both a model of God’s abundant grace and an instance of it.

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An Essay on Divine Authority

