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## DIFFERENT PORTRAYALS OF DIVINE AUTHORITY AND HUMAN AGENCY

Annotation

This article explores the varied representations of divine authority and human agency in religious texts, classical literature, and philosophical discourse. Through a comparative analysis of selected works such as The Bible, The Qur'an, Sophocles' Oedipus Rex, and Milton's Paradise Lost, the study examines how divine will is presented in relation to human autonomy, moral responsibility, and fate. The article also discusses how cultural and historical contexts influence these portrayals and their implications for understanding the human condition.

**Key words:** divine authority, philosophical traditions, religious texts, human agency, divine omnipotence, divine paradoxes.

## ILOHIY HOKIMIYAT VA INSON ARALASHUVINING TURLI XIL TASVIRLARI

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada ilohiy hokimiyat va inson irodasi tushunchalarining diniy matnlar, klassik adabiyot va falsafiy qarashlarda qanday aks etgani o'rganiladi. Bibliya, Qur'on, Sofoklning "Shoh Edip" tragediyasi va Miltonning "Yo'qotilgan jannat" asari kabi tanlab olingan asarlarni qiyosiy tahlil qilish orqali, tadqiqot ilohiy iroda inson erkinligi, axloqiy mas'uliyat va taqdir bilan qanday bog'lanishini ko'rib chiqadi. Maqolada, shuningdek, madaniy va tarixiy kontekstlar bu tasvirlarga qanday ta'sir ko'rsatishi hamda bu yondashuvlarning inson mohiyatini tushunishda qanday o'rin tutishi muhokama qilinadi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** ilohiy hokimiyat, falsafiy an'analar, diniy matnlar, inson irodasi, ilohiy qudrat, ilohiy paradokslar.

## РАЗЛИЧНЫЕ ИЗОБРАЖЕНИЯ БОЖЕСТВЕННОЙ ВЛАСТИ И ЧЕЛОВЕЧЕСКОГО ВМЕШАТЕЛЬСТВА

Аннотация

В данной статье исследуются различные представления о божественной власти и человеческом выборе в религиозных текстах, классической литературе и философском дискурсе. Посредством сравнительного анализа таких произведений, как Библия, Коран, «Царь Эдип» Софокла и «Потерянный рай» Мильтона, рассматривается, как божественная воля соотносится с человеческой автономией, моральной ответственностью и судьбой. Также в статье обсуждается, каким образом культурные и исторические контексты влияют на эти образы и какое значение они имеют для понимания человеческой природы.

**Ключевые слова:** божественная власть, философские традиции, религиозные тексты, человеческое агентство, всемогущество Бога, божественные парадоксы.

The dynamic interplay between divine authority and human agency has consistently occupied a pivotal position within religious, literary, and philosophical discourses across diverse cultures and historical epochs. At its essence, divine authority denotes an omnipotent and omniscient force that sustains cosmic order, enforces moral law, and confers ultimate meaning upon existence. It embodies an absolute power that transcends human comprehension and establishes the foundational framework through which life is interpreted and justified. Conversely, human agency refers to the capacity of individuals to make deliberate choices, exercise free will, and assume ethical responsibility for their actions. This concept is intimately linked to notions of autonomy, selfhood, and moral development. This tension-between a predetermined order governed by divine will and the freedom of human choice-has generated profound questions about the nature of morality, justice, and the limits of human control. From the mythologies of ancient civilizations to modern philosophical discourse and contemporary literature, this dialectic serves as a lens through which societies grapple with existential uncertainty and the search for meaning. By analyzing how divine authority and human agency are represented in various cultural texts including sacred scriptures, epic narratives, philosophical treatises, and modern

fiction this article aims to illuminate the ways in which different traditions negotiate these forces. In doing so, it explores how evolving portrayals of the divine and the human reflect changing conceptions of identity, responsibility, and the human condition itself.

Myths about creation often played a central role in the formation of religious beliefs. The creation of the world, gods, and early humans are usually associated with key themes such as order, disorder, morality, and divine intervention. For example, in many local cultures, the myth of the creation of the world is closely connected with the people's understanding of their relationship to the earth, divinity, and the cosmos. These myths of origin define social structures, define transitional rituals, and provide moral guidance for the people. [9].

Divine authority in religious texts. In Abrahamic traditions, divine authority is absolute. In Genesis, God's commands shape the course of creation and human history. However, figures such as Abraham and Moses are also seen exercising a degree of agency - often negotiating with or questioning divine will (e.g., Abraham pleading for Sodom).

In the Qur'an, the omnipotence of the Divine is consistently emphasized (e.g., Surah Al-Baqarah), yet human beings are simultaneously reminded of their moral

responsibility to make righteous choices (e.g., Surah Al-Insan). This juxtaposition underscores the enduring theological discourse within Islamic thought concerning the tension between qadar (predestination) and ikhtiyar (free will), a debate that remains central to Islamic philosophy and jurisprudence. [1].

The tragic dimension in classical literature. Sophocles' Oedipus Rex serves as a paradigmatic exploration of fate and prophecy as manifestations of divine authority. The protagonist, Oedipus, exercises free will; however, his inexorable destiny unfolds in a manner that epitomizes a deterministic worldview. Nonetheless, Oedipus' relentless pursuit of truth and his acceptance of culpability underscore the inherent dignity and complexity of human agency within an ostensibly fatalistic universe.

Renaissance perspectives: Milton's Paradise Lost. Milton's epic poem dramatizes the Fall of Man, elucidating the intricate interplay between divine justice and human freedom. While God is depicted as omniscient and just, Adam and Eve are portrayed as possessing genuine free will. Similarly, Satan exemplifies radical agency through his act of rebellion[5]. Milton's work ultimately posits that the moral weight of obedience and disobedience lies in their voluntary nature, affirming the profound significance of human autonomy within the framework of divine sovereignty. Milton's absorption of mythological themes also

applies to the study of free will and destiny in the poem. In the classical tradition, gods often make choices for people, determine their fate, and punish those who oppose the divine will. However, in "The Lost Paradise," Milton pays great attention to human free will. The ability of Satan and Adam to choose their actions, even if against God's will, indicates a fundamental contradiction between fate and personal responsibility. Relying on classical mythological motifs, Milton illuminates the struggle between fate and individual choice, which further complicates and perpetuates the moral issues of the poem [8].

Modern and postmodern views. In modern philosophy (e.g., Kierkegaard, Sartre), divine authority is often reinterpreted or challenged. Kierkegaard's concept of the "leap of faith" underscores individual responsibility within divine paradoxes[4]. Sartre, in contrast, rejects divine authority entirely, positing radical human freedom in an absurd universe. Postmodern literature often blurs or deconstructs both divine and human authority. Writers like Samuel Beckett or Salman Rushdie depict fragmented identities and ambiguous moral universes where traditional hierarchies of power and meaning collapse[7].

The following comparative framework shows how literature reflects evolving ideas of the divine, freedom, and ethics. From sacred obedience to existential selfhood, each tradition mirrors its historical and philosophical context.

Comparative Analysis of Worldviews Across Literary Traditions

Aspect	Religious Texts	Classical Tragedy	Renaissance Epic	Modern Thought
Divine Authority	Absolute and omnipotent	Manifested through fate	Just yet distant	Often questioned or absent
Human Agency	Limited but morally significant	Tragic and constrained	Free yet fallible	Radical and subjective
Moral Responsibility	Tied to obedience	Tied to recognition of fate	Tied to reason and conscience	Tied to authenticity

The interplay between divine authority and human agency is a profound and multifaceted theme that reflects evolving conceptions of morality, responsibility, and the nature of the cosmos throughout history. This dynamic tension is articulated in a wide array of religious texts, philosophical treatises, and literary works, each offering unique perspectives on the extent and limits of human freedom in relation to an all-encompassing divine will. Religious scriptures often sanctify divine will as absolute and immutable, positing God as the ultimate arbiter of moral law and cosmic order. Within this framework, human actions are frequently understood in terms

of submission to divine decree, emphasizing obedience and faith as the path to spiritual fulfillment.

Conversely, philosophical and literary traditions have persistently interrogated the boundaries of human autonomy and free will, challenging deterministic or fatalistic worldviews by asserting the meaningfulness of individual choice and moral responsibility. Tragic narratives, such as those found in classical Greek drama, dramatize the inescapability of fate while simultaneously highlighting the agency of protagonists who confront their destinies with courage and ethical deliberation.

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