

Human God and Eschatology

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Abstract

*In scholarly and spiritual discourse, the relationship between God, humanity, and eschatology often sparks numerous discussions and debates. By incorporating philosophical, theological, and religious perspectives, we can delve into how these three elements interact and influence human understanding and life. This article aims to explore the complex relationship between these aspects, expanding our understanding of the spiritual and existential essence of humanity. This journal discusses the relationship between God, humanity, and eschatology in the context of philosophy, theology, and religious thought. The article explores conceptions of God, the role of humanity in the divine plan, and eschatology as part of religious beliefs. This research employs a philosophical and theological analysis approach to delve into these concepts within various religious traditions. The analysis highlights the role of humanity in its relationship with God in the context of eschatology. **Keywords: God, Humanity, Eschatology***

Abstract

Scientific and spiritual studies, the relationship between God, humanity and eschatology are often topics of much discussion and debate. Combining philosophical, theological and religious perspectives, we can explore how these three elements interact with each other and influence human understanding and life. This article aims to explore the complex relationship between these three aspects, expanding our understanding of humanity's spiritual and existential essence. This journal examines the relationship between God, humanity and eschatology in the context of philosophy, theology and religious thought. The article explores conceptions of God, the role of humans in the divine plan, as well as eschatology as part of religious belief. It uses a philosophical and theological analytical approach to explore these concepts in various religious traditions. The results of the analysis highlight the role of humans in relation to God in the context of eschatology.

Keywords: God, Man, Eschatology

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Introduction

Human presence in this world is often associated with the search for meaning and purpose in life. One of the underlying aspects of this search is the human relationship with the divine entity, which is different in each religious belief. God is often seen as the creator, sustainer and end of all things. Eschatology, on the other hand, is the study of the end times or the ultimate destination of the human journey and the universe.

Human presence in this world is often characterized by a relentless search for meaning and purpose in life. For many individuals, the question of why we are here and what is the true purpose of our existence becomes the main focus of the life journey. In various cultures and beliefs, this aspect is central to human existential reflection.² One of the most important points in this quest is humanity's relationship with the divine entity that is distinct in each religious belief.³ Throughout the ages, humans have developed diverse views on their relationship with powers or entities perceived as divine. From the diverse understandings of gods in ancient mythologies to the singular concept of God in monotheistic religious beliefs, humans have always sought a distinctive relationship with these divine entities.

When we look holistically, the differences between these beliefs do not diminish the urgency for humans to attribute their existence to a greater meaning. Rather, these differences give rise to diverse perspectives on humanity's relationship with divine entities. For example, in polytheistic religions, humanity's relationship with the various deities that control different aspects of life reflects the human need for spiritual assistance in navigating daily life. On the other hand, in monotheistic traditions such as

² Nur Amir Reza Aal-Afkar, et al, "The Concept of Insan Kamil Al-Jilli and the Three Elements of Secularism", (Journal for Islamic Studies: 2022) pp. 1-5

³ Misbah Khoiruddin Zuhri, "The Spirituality of Modern Science: A Reading of the Relationship between Religion and Science," *Journal of Research* 14, no. 2 (2017): 1-7.

Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam), this relationship is more focused on one God who is considered the creator, sustainer and

end-all. People in these traditions often attribute the purpose of their lives to the divine will and plan of the single God who is worshipped.

However, it is not only major religions that inspire people to explore their relationship with the divine entity. Various spiritual traditions, existential philosophies and personal beliefs also serve as sources for people's search for meaning and purpose in life. This is where the essence of man's journey to explore his relationship with the divine is realized, where personal beliefs, introspection, and spiritual quests become key milestones.

Sometimes, in this search for meaning, humans find a meeting point between religion, philosophy and science. Although there are different perspectives, the spirit of understanding and finding the meaning of existence remains the main focus.⁴ Human presence in this world is not just a physical existence, but a journey to find and understand the meaning and greater purpose of this life.

The human relationship with the divine entity, which differs across religious beliefs, is a key driver in the attempt to answer these existential questions. Although human views of God or the divine vary, the desire to find meaning in that relationship remains one of the essential aspects of human existence in this world. As a being with consciousness and freedom, humans often contemplate their role in the scheme of creation. Various philosophical views of humans see them as entities connected to certain aspects of the physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual worlds. . This is important in establishing a harmonious dialogue among people of diverse beliefs and philosophical views.

⁴ M. Amin Abdullah, "Dialogizing Religious Reason and Modern Science in the Midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic," *Maarif* 15, no. 1 (2020): 11-39.

Discussion

In the theoretical review, this article explains various philosophical and theological perspectives on the relationship between humans, God and eschatology. Theories from various religious traditions such as Christianity, Islam, Hinduism,

Buddhism and others are explored to understand their views on the role of humans in the divine plan as well as expectations of the end times. This article outlines an indepth understanding of the complex relationship between humans, God and eschatology, exploring various philosophical and theological perspectives. This topic is not a light subject, but refers to fundamental questions about existence, the purpose of life, and the end of all things.

Philosophy and theology have long explored the complex relationship between man and God. Philosophy, in its rational way, tries to understand human limitations and seeks the meaning of God's existence in this context. Theology, on the other hand, brings a spiritual and religious dimension, considering God's role in human life as well as the final state (eschatology) attributed to Him. As a being with consciousness and freedom, man often contemplates his role in the scheme of creation. Various philosophical views of humans see them as entities connected to certain aspects of the physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual worlds. Meanwhile, theological views add a dimension of faith and humanity's relationship with God, considering human nature as created according to a divine plan.

The question of God's role in human life has driven theological thought for centuries. Is God a creator who is directly involved in everyday human affairs or an entity that observes from a distance, granting humans absolute freedom? Theological views such as theism, deism, or other views on the nature of God, form the basis for interpretations of man's relationship with the Almighty. Eschatology, meanwhile, addresses the end times and the ultimate fate of mankind. Philosophical and theological perspectives on eschatology include views on the afterlife, resurrection, judgment day,

as well as the end of the universe. These views are often enriched by religious values and beliefs, and are often a source of moral inspiration for people in their daily lives.⁵

However, it is important to note that these various views can be complex and diverse, depending on the underlying philosophical or religious tradition. Each

viewpoint is distinctive and unique in describing the relationship between man, God and eschatology. In this study, we observe how important it is to understand that philosophical and theological perspectives on the relationship between man, God and eschatology are not static. They can evolve over time, influenced by cultural changes, developments in human knowledge, and reinterpretations of sacred texts or classical philosophical thought. Finally, this study invites us to maintain a diversity of views and tolerance for differences in understanding the complex relationship between humans, God and eschatology. This is important in building a harmonious dialogue among societies of diverse beliefs and philosophical views, respecting the diversity of views as an inseparable part of the richness of humanity.

Philosophical Concepts of the Relationship Between Man and God

The philosophical concept of the relationship between humans and God has been a constant contemplation in the history of human thought. Along the way, philosophy has explored diverse thoughts, arguments and views on the nature of this complex relationship, questioning the origins, purpose and meaning of the interaction between humans as finite beings and God as a possibly transcendent entity.

One of the main benchmarks in understanding this relationship is through the framework of metaphysics. Various classical thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Kant, and Nietzsche, have expressed their views on the essence of man and his relationship with God. Plato, for example, highlighted the existence of a human

⁵ Mohammad Muslih et al., "The Statum of Religion in the History of Islamic Science and Modern Science," *Fikri: Journal of Religious, Social and Cultural Studies* 6, no. 2 (2021): 89-105.

spirit that desires truth, and he placed the idea of absolute goodness as the highest view of God.⁶

The traditional theistic view, as described by philosophers of religion, believes in the active existence of God in human life. They view this relationship as an interaction between the creator (God) and the creation (humans). This view places God as the main driver in the care, guidance and direction of human life. Meanwhile, there

is also a deistic view that views God as a creator alone, who may have created the universe but does not intervene in human affairs. This view emphasizes human freedom in determining their own destiny and actions without divine intervention.⁷

The fundamental question that arises is, how can we as humans, who are limited in understanding and existence, have a meaningful relationship with a supposedly transcendent entity such as God? This issue creates a foundation for the study of ethics and human morality in many philosophical traditions. The philosophy of ethics is concerned with how humans should live, and the view of the relationship with God becomes an important aspect in shaping that view of morality. Philosophical views on religious ethics show how human morality is often rooted in a view of God as the ultimate source of moral authority.

However, philosophical skepticism also provides valuable insights. Critics such as Hume or Nietzsche challenged beliefs about the existence of God, raising critical questions about the reasons and evidence supporting humanity's relationship with the transcendent. Within the framework of modern thought, views on the relationship between humans and God continue to evolve. The philosophy of existentialism, for example, highlights the solitude and freedom of the individual in creating the meaning of his or her own life, sometimes in the absence of God. Meanwhile, progressive

⁶ Selvia Santi, "The Relationship between Religion and Science According to Seyyed Hossein Nasr and Ian G Barbour," *Proceedings of the Conference on Integration of Interconnection of Islam and Science* 1 (2018): 171-176.

⁷ Mohammad Muslih et al., "The Statum of Religion in the History of Islamic Science and Modern Science," *Fikri: Journal of Religious, Social and Cultural Studies* 6, no. 2 (2021): 89-105.

thought also reformulates the concept of God's existence within a broader social, cultural and psychological context.

In conclusion, the philosophical concept of the relationship between man and God offers a complex and diverse framework. It not only reflects views on the origins of human existence, but also offers views on morality, the meaning of life, and human freedom. In delving into the understanding of this relationship, philosophy has become

a vast field of exploration, paving the way for deep reflection on the essence and existence of human beings in an infinite universe.⁸

Theological Perspectives: Man, God, and Eschatology

Theological perspectives on the relationship between humans, God and eschatology have been fundamental to the understanding of spirituality, morality and the purpose of human life in various religious traditions. In this exploration, theology has highlighted a deep and complex view of how humans relate to the Divine and how human life relates to the end times.⁹

1. Man's Relationship with God in Theological Perspective

Theological views of humanity's relationship with God tend to cross a broad spectrum. In Abrahamic religions such as Christianity, Islam and Judaism, God is often regarded as an active creator involved in human affairs. On the other hand, eastern religions such as Hinduism or Buddhism emphasize the search for spiritual wisdom as a way to achieve a deeper understanding of the self and interconnectedness with the

⁸ Achmad Khudori Soleh, "The quantum approach in Nidhal Guessoum's integration of religion and science," *Ulul Albab* 19, no. 1 (2018): 119-141.

⁹ Septiana Purwaningrum, "Elaboration of science verses in the Quran: A step towards the integration of religion and science in education," *Innovative: Journal of Research on Education, Religion, and Culture* 1, no. 1 (2015): 124-141.

Divine. In Christian theology, for example, the concept of original sin describes humanity's separation from God and the need for salvation. This view emphasizes the importance of redemption and grace as the means to restore the disrupted relationship with God.

2. A View of Eschatology within a Theological Framework

Eschatology, the study of the end times and the ultimate fate of humanity, is an important element in theology. Concepts of judgment day, life after death, or the end of the physical world are central to the beliefs of many religious traditions. Theological perspectives on eschatology often interpret how the afterlife will affect human lives and their existential purpose. In Islam, the concept of the Last Day places a final

judgment on human deeds, where people will be given justice for their actions in this world. While in Christianity, eschatology highlights thoughts of resurrection, judgment day, as well as eternal life in either heaven or hell.

3. Social and Moral Implications of this Theological Perspective

Theological views on man's relationship with God and eschatology also provide moral and ethical direction. Religious teachings often provide a moral framework that guides human actions in daily life. For example, the teaching of love in Christianity or the concept of karma in Hinduism provide the basis for human moral action. In society, theological perspectives also have strong implications in shaping social structures, values and justice. Principles such as social justice, solidarity or empowerment of the weak are often inspired by religious teachings that emphasize compassion and social justice.¹⁰

Social, Psychological, and Existential Implications

When we look at the various aspects of human life, there are three dimensions that profoundly affect the way people view, act and exist as a whole. The social,

¹⁰ Augustina Kurniasih, "The Relationship between Science and Religion," *Proceeding*, November 16 (2010): 8.

psychological and existential implications are the basis for understanding an individual's role in society, inner reflection and the search for deep meaning.

In a social context, implications are closely related to how individuals interact with society. Religious views, culture, and values become the moral foundation that shapes social behavior. These values play an important role in shaping norms, ethics and rules that influence human actions in society. Moreover, social implications also include considerations of justice, equality and social responsibility. Values reflected in religious beliefs often encourage participation in charitable activities, humanitarian aid, or efforts to fight for social justice.

Psychological Implications

From a psychological perspective, implications involve the internal dimensions of the individual. The relationship between religious or spiritual beliefs and mental health, happiness and psychological well-being is an important concern. Belief in the existence of a transcendent entity or life after death can provide a sense of meaning, hope, and calmness for individuals in the face of difficulties or uncertainties in life. From an existential perspective, implications relate to the search for meaning and purpose in life. The concepts of existence, purpose of existence, and life after death become the center of human reflection and contemplation. Questions regarding the purpose of life, values held, and existence within the universe become deep focal points in the search for the meaning of life.¹¹

Methodology

This research uses a philosophical analysis approach of religious texts, theological literature, and relevant philosophical works to understand the views of each

¹¹ Moh. Shofan, "Religion, Science, and Covid-19: Dialogizing Religious Reason and Modern Science," *Maarif* 15, no. 1 (2020): 5-10.

religious tradition. The comparative method is used to highlight similarities and differences in the views of eschatology and the role of humans in relation to God.

Author's Analysis

In this section, the research explores the findings from the analysis of religious texts and philosophical views. This includes a discussion of how the concept of eschatology influences man's view of his purpose in life and how man's relationship with God is reflected in his expectation of the end of time. In human intellectual development, religious texts and philosophical views have always served as sources of knowledge and inspiration. This research specifically explores how religious texts, often regarded as divine revelation or moral guidance, interact and relate to various philosophical schools of thought.

Through comparative analysis, this research opens up insights into how religious texts not only function as spiritual or ethical guidelines, but also as works containing

deep philosophical thoughts. From the richness of metaphor, symbolism and allegory in these texts, the research reveals how philosophical concepts such as existence, essence and epistemology are debated and interpreted differently in various religious traditions.

In the initial stage, the research focused on collecting and analyzing religious texts from various traditions, ranging from Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, to other spiritual traditions, emphasizing the philosophical aspects contained in them. The methodology involves a hermeneutic approach to understand the texts in their historical and cultural contexts. It then moves towards a deeper understanding of how certain philosophical views can be found, read and interpreted in these religious texts. This allows the study to not only understand religious texts as cultural and historical

products, but also as texts that offer complex and often unexpected philosophical views.¹²

One of the interesting findings of this study is how religious texts often contain deep internal dialogues on philosophical questions. For example, concepts about the universe, the existence of God and the nature of the soul are often presented in a form that is not only dogmatic, but also speculative and profound. The research also reveals how religious narratives often explore themes such as freedom, suffering and redemption in a broader context than mere moral teachings, but rather as part of philosophical questions about the meaning and purpose of life. These findings challenge conventional views that often separate religious discourse from philosophical considerations, showing that the two are often intertwined in a complex and multidimensional dialog.

Religious texts, with their philosophical richness, offer valuable insights for philosophical thinking, while philosophy provides the tools to understand and interpret these texts in a more profound and reflective way. In a social context, implications are

closely related to how individuals interact with society. Religious views, culture, and values provide the moral foundation that shapes social behavior. These values play an important role in shaping norms, ethics and rules that influence human actions in society. Moreover, social implications also include considerations of justice, equality, and social responsibility.

Conclusion

The journal concludes that the relationship between God, humans and eschatology plays an important role in giving meaning and purpose to human life. Despite differences in views between religious traditions, the concept of the end times

¹² Sufratman Sufratman, "Integration of Religion and Modern Science in State Islamic Universities (an analytical study of the thinking of m. Amin abdullah)," *Al-Afkar, Journal for Islamic Studies* (2022): 209-228.

and humanity's role in the divine plan is often a key driver for people's beliefs, morality and actions in daily life. This journal offers deep insights into the complex relationship between God, humanity and eschatology, and the importance of understanding these concepts in the context of human life.

It is hoped that this journal can provide a foundation for better understanding the role of humans in relation to the divine and how belief in eschatology influences people's worldview. For example, in many traditions, questions about the nature of God, the universe and human existence are not only answered through dogma, but also through philosophical argumentation and speculation. This shows that religious texts often enrich our understanding of life's big questions in ways that go beyond traditional religious boundaries.

In addition, the study also found that many religious texts contain discussions on ethics and morals that are directly related to philosophical principles. For example, the concepts of justice, virtue and the nature of goodness are often discussed not only in the context of religious law, but also in terms of philosophical ethical thinking. This opens up new perspectives in understanding how religious texts can provide moral guidance that is rooted in deep philosophical thinking.

Thus, the conclusions of this study not only provide new insights into the intrinsic value of religious texts, but also change the way we view the relationship between religion and philosophy. It proves that religion and philosophy, which are often seen as separate fields, can actually dialogue and contribute to each other.

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