

# EVERYONE KILLS THEIR GOD

*Listen closely to my words divine*

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PHILOSOPHICAL ESSAY

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Is it possible for humans to kill God? I believe that individuals are capable of doing so, and when they come together, they can achieve it as a society. However, this death is not a literal death of God's existence. It is accomplished by humans either individually or collectively as a society. In order to understand this killing in relation to concepts such as belief, religion, and morality, we must briefly clarify their meaning within the context of humans and society.

Belief can be directed towards anything, including God. In its religious context, leaps of faith can occur in terms of belief level. The strength is determined based on the degree of surrender, which is met with faith. Another concept related to this is religion. While belief takes place in a vertical individual form, religion is horizontal and takes place in a societal context. In our context, belief pertains to the relationship between humans and God, while religion pertains to the relationship between humans. The level of belief is also determined by the degree of adherence to religious decrees considered to be divine commandments. However, deviations from this can occur in the hidden aspects of human nature. What is outwardly expressed is the sincere expression of what one understands based on their own perception.

The third concept related to the two previous ones is ethics. Ethics, like belief, has both an individual dimension and a social dimension with norms. The ethical state of each individual constitutes the ethics of the society in which they come together. There are many factors that affect the formation of ethics in both the individual and the society. Among these, language, culture, and religion are the dominant factors. We will specifically discuss the influence of religion on ethics. There are also distinctions within religions. There are moral religions like the Abrahamic religions, and others that are the product of human reasoning. Another concept to consider is ideology. Just like religions can be ideologies, ideologies can also be religions, aiming to guide individuals and society in terms of direction and lifestyle.

### **How Does God Exist in Humans?**

We accept the existence of God a priori, so the discussion of whether God exists or not is not within the scope of this article. Our topic is whether God exists in humans, and if so, how. I divide this into two parts: the first is what humans acquire in their creation, and the second is what they can acquire later. The first one is interpreted in different ways, but as I define it in this article, it is conscience; the second is the moral system. Conscience comes naturally to every human being and cannot be acquired, but it can be developed or weakened. The moral system, on the other hand, can be acquired later, developed, changed, or not acquired at all. When I say "not acquired at all," I mean not adopting a system of norms with a defined framework. When left to flow naturally, conscience and character will fill this void. When conscience is disregarded, character will continue to fulfill this role.

I consider the concept of conscience in the context of this essay as the voice of God. It is the warning system of God that pulls humans back from the extreme limits and enables them to find the middle ground. As mentioned before, conscience comes from creation and develops as one pays attention to it; otherwise, the voice weakens and eventually disappears. However, I also believe that there is a genetic heritability that affects one's character and behavior. I do not have enough information to elaborate on this at the moment.

I consider the acquirable moral system as a value system that initially affects all emotional and behavioral actions of a person, which is obtained through factors such as religion, culture, and family. Initially, a person does not choose this system but rather finds themselves

in it due to the societal structure; if they do not start to question it, they continue their life and complete it with this value system that they did not choose but found themselves in. Not only does the person lack knowledge about what they believe in or why they believe it, but they also lack knowledge about why they do what they do along with these values. They do not pursue knowledge acquisition either. The values they are in, culturally ensure continuity and act as a means of transferring to the next generation. The reflection of this situation on the person is a practical, utilitarian progression.

When a person begins to question the values they have acquired through factors such as religion, culture, and family, they begin to understand what is what and learn to believe and practice intentionally and with reasons. This is where the concept of God comes into play in human beings. I say that God exists in those who recognize and shape their own value system, rather than in those who engage in cultural transmission. This is because in all religious teachings, the figure of God requires believers to believe with knowledge of what they believe in. Those who engage in cultural transmission are not aware of this; they simply live, and the transmission process happens naturally. This is an unexamined way of life. However, all religions require questioning until one chooses them. When one reaches the peak of questioning and decides to embrace a religion, complete faith and no further questioning are expected. Again, I emphasize that I am using the term "religion" in an ideological sense as well.

Let us continue the discussion on the topic of religion and ethics. The first part of God's existence in humans was conscience, and we have explained it. The second part is ethics. God can exist in individuals and society only to the extent that he applies his own created ethical system to them. If people do not adopt and practice God's ethics, they will have killed God; individually in themselves and collectively in society. If we assume that people equate their inner voice with God's ethics but do not put it into practice, after a while, that inner voice will either disappear or weaken. Therefore, people have the power to kill their gods throughout their lives.

### ***"God is Dead!" Nietzsche***

Let us continue the discussion on the subject of religion and morality. Let us make the hypothesis more explicit through Nietzsche's words. There are many interpretations of what lies behind this statement, as Nietzsche did not adhere to any philosophical system. Therefore, the meaning of this statement is left to the interpretation of the commentators. However, when evaluated in connection with what was written before and after, the intention behind this statement becomes clearer.

Nietzsche's statement does not refer to the death of the immortal God, but to the collapse of his moral system, which means the death of God for humanity. According to Nietzsche, God can only exist in man through a moral system. "We are doing the same thing again, we are killing God. Aren't we doing it? Don't the rulers kill God?" These words also support this interpretation. The reference to killing God in man does not imply death in his existence.

Since God's moral system has died and a moral void has been created, Nietzsche sought to fill this void with his overman philosophy. The death of God in man has only been used for the Church community. There are interpretations that claim that Nietzsche used these words against the Church. However, the question remains open whether this refers to the

death of the Pope's view of God and his moral teachings or to the moral system of God independent of the Church and the Pope. Nevertheless, looking at it from today's perspective, I believe that Nietzsche's statement can be universally interpreted and points to the above interpretation.

Let us return to the question of how God exists within human beings. When we reject God's moral system, or even if we verbally accept it but do not practice it, don't we kill God within ourselves? How else can God exist within humans if we do not adopt His moral code? To not accept God's morality is to reject it, to ignore it. For that person, God is dead. And we humans, in pursuit of our own interests, egos, and pleasures, constantly kill God and then resurrect Him, only to kill Him again, until we taste our own mortality. We play the role of deities who kill and resurrect God.

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*Whereas, everyone kills their god,*

*Listen to what I say.*

*Some do it for their own gain,*

*Some for their own pleasures.*

*Cowards kill in secret,*

*The brave deny it openly!*