

SYNOPSIS OF VOLUNTAS DEI

INTRODUCTION

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There are three common hypotheses of the origin of our universe. These three set forth by analogies and examined—

1. The Materialistic hypothesis—that all things mechanically evolve, and are mere combinations of matter.
2. The Psychic hypothesis—that spirit, potential in matter, has been the formative principle and will become more and more dominant.
3. The God hypothesis.

The strong and weak points of each hypothesis considered.

If all three were equally reasonable, the fact that the third satisfies feeling and activity as well as reason is likely to make it always the belief of the greater part of mankind; but there is no moral defect involved in the acceptance of any of these theories by men who honestly find their natures satisfied by them. The theist must whole-heartedly allow that an honest man's intelligent adherence to what seems to him truth cannot be offensive to God; while materialist or psychist must not accuse theist of lack of candour for adhering to the God hypothesis even though his reason may not be wholly satisfied; for it is probably quite as candid to adhere to what satisfies volitional and emotional nature, although reason be not wholly convinced, as to reject a satisfying belief merely because no reasonable proof can be offered.

The fact of the diverse and unnumbered multitude living in what they believe to be consciousness of God is considered as weighing down the scale on the side of the God hypothesis.

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Belief in creative Intelligence involves belief in creative purpose.

The conditions under which we seek truth require us to make