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A Survey of the Unity of the Divine Essence and Attributes from the Point of View of Maimonides and Allameh Tabatabai

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Abstract

The Unity of the Divine Essence and Attributes has always been one of most important topics in theology and an issue of high interest to theologians, philosophers and the mystics of Abrahamic Religions. The present article is an attempt to consider the viewpoints of one Jewish and one Muslim philosopher and to analyze them in a comparative manner with reference to the Old Testament and Quran. Maimonides, as a Jewish theologian, takes the view that as God is incorporeal no attribute dependent upon material constitution can be applied to His essence. So he

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considers the attribution of affirmative attributes to God in the Old Testament interpretative. While Allameh Tabatabaei, one of the Muslims thinkers, does not believe in the incompatibility of the unity of essence and the real ascription of attributes of affirmative eternal beauty and divine majesty to God in Quran. The present articles compares the basic principles and the requirements of these two viewpoints.

Key Terms: Torah, Quran, Unity of Divine Essence, Unity of Devine Attributes, Maimonides, Allameh Tabatabaei.