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978-0-521-80279-6 - God and Reason in the Middle Ages  
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## GOD AND REASON IN THE MIDDLE AGES

Between 1100 and 1600, the emphasis on reason in the learning and intellectual life of Western Europe became more pervasive and widespread than ever before in the history of human civilization. This dramatic state of affairs followed the long, difficult period of the barbarian invasions, which ended around A.D. 1000 when a new and vibrant Europe emerged. Of crucial significance was the invention of the university around 1200, within which reason was institutionalized and where it became a deeply embedded, permanent feature of Western thought and culture. It is therefore appropriate to speak of an Age of Reason in the Middle Ages, and to view it as a forerunner and herald of the Age of Reason that was to come in the seventeenth century.

The object of this book is twofold: to describe how reason was manifested in the curriculum of medieval universities, especially in the subjects of logic, natural philosophy, and theology; and to explain how the Middle Ages acquired an undeserved reputation as an age of superstition, barbarism, and unreason.

Edward Grant is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History and Philosophy of Science and Professor Emeritus of History at Indiana University. He is the author of *The Foundations of Modern Science in the Middle Ages: Their Religious, Institutional, and Intellectual Contexts* (Cambridge University Press, 1996); *Planets, Stars, & Orbs: The Medieval Cosmos* (Cambridge University Press, 1994); *Mathematics and Its Applications to Science and Natural Philosophy in the Middle Ages* (Cambridge University Press, 1987), and numerous other books and articles. He was awarded the George Sarton Medal of the History of Science Society in 1992.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
 Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press  
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
 Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521802796](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521802796)

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First published 2001

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*

Grant, Edward, 1926–  
 God and reason in the Middle Ages/Edward Grant.  
 p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-521-80279-2 – ISBN 0-521-00337-7 (pb.)

1. Reason – History.
2. Faith and reason – Christianity – History of doctrines.
3. Learning and scholarship – History – Medieval, 500–1500.
4. Universities and colleges – Europe – History. I. Title.

B738. R42 G73 2001  
 189–dc21 00-065116

ISBN 978-0-521-80279-6 hardback  
 ISBN 978-0-521-00337-7 paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2009

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*To Sydelle,  
once again*

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

IN WRITING ANY BOOK, AN AUTHOR ASSUMES OBLIGATIONS THAT HE or she is often unaware of and that only careful reflection brings to mind. My reflections tell me that I owe thanks in varying degrees to a number of individuals and to one institution. The latter is the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek for its kind permission to reproduce the image of God designing the universe, which occurs in Latin MSS, MS 2554, fol. 1r, and appears on the cover of the paperback version. As always, I am indebted to the librarians of Indiana University, who have helped immeasurably in locating and acquiring all manner of research materials. I am especially grateful to the three anonymous readers whose perceptive insights and criticisms proved enormously helpful. The numerous publications of Professor John E. Murdoch (Harvard University), a friend and professional colleague of long standing, were especially relevant and helpful. University colleagues who made their expertise available to me are Professors Paul Vincent Spade (Department of Philosophy), Michael Berkvam (Department of French & Italian), and Leah Shopkow (Department of History). I am indebted to my departmental colleagues, Professors Michael Friedman and Michael Dickson, and to a former colleague and friend of many years, Professor John Winnie, Sr., for generous help on a number of technical, philosophical problems. For the pleasure and privilege of participating in stimulating and fruitful discussions over the years, I wish to express my gratitude to Professors Roger C. Buck, Frederick Churchill, H. Scott Gordon, Noretta Koertge, and Jack Moore, longtime friends, colleagues, and weekly luncheon companions.

And, finally, for patiently reading certain sections of my book, and responding to innumerable queries about it, I owe my greatest debt to Syd (Sydelle), my wife of 50 years, to whom this book is gratefully and lovingly dedicated.