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THE PROBLEM OF DIVINE ACTION IN THE WORLD

Joel Archer Duke University



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Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

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The Problem of Divine Action in the World

Elements in the Problems of God

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> Joel Archer Duke University

Author for correspondence: Joel Archer, jvarcher@gmail.com

Abstract: The world's major monotheistic religions share the view that God acts in the world. This Element discusses the nature of divine action, with a specific focus on miracles or "special" divine acts. Miracles are sometimes considered problematic. Some argue that they are theologically untenable or that they violate the laws of nature. Others claim that even if miracles occur, it is never rational to believe in them based on testimony. Still others maintain that miracles are not within the scope of historical investigation. After addressing these objections, the author examines the function of miracles as "signs" in the New Testament.

Keywords: Divine Action, Miracles, Laws of Nature, David Hume, Causation

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