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Elements in Religion and Monotheism

edited by

Paul K. Moser

Loyola University Chicago

Chad Meister

*Affiliate Scholar, Ansari Institute for Global Engagement with Religion,
University of Notre Dame*

MONOTHEISM AND MIRACLE

Eric Eve

Harris Manchester College, Oxford



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Monotheism and Miracle

Elements in Religion and Monotheism

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Eric Eve

Harris Manchester College, Oxford

Author for correspondence: Eric Eve, eric.eve@hmc.ox.ac.uk

Abstract: *Monotheism implies a God* who is active in creation. An author writing a novel provides a better analogy for God's creative activity than an artificer constructing a mechanism. A miracle is then not an interruption of the ordinary course of nature so much as a divine decision to do something out of the ordinary, and miracle is primarily a narrative category. We perceive as miracles events that are extraordinary while also fitting our understanding of divine purpose. Many miracle accounts may remain problematic, however, since recognizing that a given story purports to narrate a miracle does not determine whether the miracle occurred. This Element suggests weighing competing narratives. In doing so the understanding of the normal workings of nature will carry considerable weight. Nevertheless, there can be instances where believers may, from their own faith perspective, be justified in concluding that a miracle has occurred.

Keywords: miracle, monotheism, narrative, religion, belief

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