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THE *IMAGO DEI*

A Holistic Account

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The *Imago Dei*

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Abstract: What does it mean to say that the human being is the *imago Dei*? This Element leverages the Reformed thinking of archetype-ectype to constructively develop a holistic account of the *imago*. That is, the image of God refers to *both* the signifier of God-human stories and the stories of ethical performances towards others *and* the motivator within the psychosomatic human person for the narration of these stories that have been unfolding since Genesis 2. Furthermore, this Element will argue that the religious and ethical implications of the *imago Dei* are not confined to the contexts of the Christian faith but bear upon the quotidian lives of all humankind, including atheists. To illustrate this, neuroscience and empathic AI will serve as two case studies, demonstrating how the psychosomatic human person as the *imago Dei* bears the unique role in the narration of both religious and ethical stories.

Keywords: Christian theology, science and religion, AI ethics, anthropology, Christian ethics

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