

## Unit 12 Essay – Must God be a realist? – John StGeorge

‘Must God be a realist’ provides the information that His existence is possible and acknowledged by way of psychological posit. Theism and the deity become hypotheses in the search for reality. The question arises from the hypothesis as to what it means for God to be a realist in His modus operandi. Accepting the existence of God allows for His creation of the heavens and the earth, the whole, the universe.

Accepting the psychological assumption of His presence however, fails to provide any evidence or verification for His being as an omnipotent and omniscient creator of the universe, the source of reality. Lurking in the background of the creation is always the possibility of an illusion, simply leaving a mental construct for such a momentous occurrence as the creation. The evidence for creation must abide in the thoughts and ideas of those committed to a deity. In the absence of any indubitable proof of a God, then faith it must be, in part at least.

If God were not a realist, what else could He be, possessed of omnipotence and omniscience? He could be, say, an immaterialist, just a spirit in a world with no space and time or matter. Or, could He be a realist in one of the possible worlds, not in the actual world as we know it, existing in space and time? As an egocentric subjectivist, He again fails to qualify by the absence of evidential verification of His existence. He may just qualify in the Kantian form as a ‘thing-in-itself’ beyond the veil of perception and, ostensibly, unknown.

However, since God is already invisible to all subjects, characterization as immaterialist, Kantian or egocentric subjectivist seems unlikely. Perhaps the unobservable God demands a measure of faith and intuition in place of irrefutable evidence. Could God in the role of anti-realist be the creator of reality?

Life in an actual world would seem to point to God as a realist. Although evidence that God exists outside the mind is not present, do we need the evidence for us to acknowledge His existence and creation? Need He be visible and conversational? Which God are we referring to? For instance, would the teachings of the son of the Christian God be proof of God as a realist in the metaphysical sense?

Where He fits in the plethora of analysis and conjecture is one of the great mysteries of our very existence. A mammoth study for any mere mortal, and perhaps a precursor to the study of metaphysics in the search for reality.

As the creator of reality, God as a realist seems the more likely proposition.