

Problem of Divine Presence vs. Freedom / The Will

The Problem = Q-A is PNSP/PN-PRNP (otherwise, He might have had a beginning in time. But since He is above time, in fact He created time, then He is eternal, + these are irrelevant to this). He is also omniscient. Hence, also present. Hence, then, freedom.

I. Saadia, Hafni, others -- following Kalam:

(3:3 2¹ NK) 1 x 1 1 0 1 2 2 0 1 2 3 1 - 1 1 1 1 0 1 2 0 - 1 4 3 'P 5/10 1/10

1. Knowledge & action are not in a causal relationship.
They are independent categories. Hakuvi (Kuzari, end): just as רִאשׁוֹת הָעֵדָה בְּבַשְׂרָבָה - knowledge / past is not reason for its being. (NL: i.e. since premise) problem assumes irrelevant of these to g-d, so resolution proves future from past). Thus: presence ≠ predetermination.

II - Persons, others - restricts q-a's omniscience
to guaranteed freedom. q-a knows only that which, acc.
natural law, will certainly occur; he does not know possible,
bcz. these "knowledge" is irrelevant. Thus (first, how, what)

acc. this, q-a's knowledge is restricted to p's, which are part of sif's, i.e. causal chains

III - Crescas ($\frac{c-1}{2} \cdot 2^2$) + some others: restricts freedom to
guarantee omniscience. Says:

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when we are an event in vacuo -- Then freedom is a reality,
whereas in its causal context, it is causa determinata.

(NL: analogy: an act, + as part of a statistical aggregate.)

God thus knows, to predetermined conclusion by
virtue of His knowledge of all causes + their effects.

However, man, treating each event per se,
retains the existential freedom.

IV - Maimonides - read אֶלְעָזָר .

Use self with its limits. In addition:
for M., major problem: freedom is not existential
but relative. Thus, בַּזְהָר = background; בַּזְמָן = times.
Then בַּזְמָן = natural law, & why in בַּזְמָן does he reach
existential: Up to בַּזְמָן - questioning omnipotence;
after: omniscience.

Raavad's objection - cannot be sustained. M.
does not merely plead ignorance. What he does is to
remove the problem from the realm of philos. discussions
simply b/c. by definition man looks for possibility of
arriving at an answer. That definition is: $\forall \exists \perp \perp$ (III)

$\forall \exists \perp \perp$ (IV) -- i.e. G-d's knowledge is not superior
to His essence, but identical. Hence, divine knowledge,
like essence, is beyond human ken.