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Concepts of the Divine in the Book of Job

- Theses -

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1. The Book of Job presupposes a monotheistic concept of God.
2. In the narrative frame of the book God has become extremely problematic for collaborating with Satan. Therefore, Job considers God to be his enemy, Job cannot believe in a righteous and merciful God any more in the dialogical speeches.
3. Within this context, Elihu gives his answer in Job 32-37. His interest is to depict God in the best possible light.
4. The Elihu speeches aim to establish the concept of the Divine anew by referring to the other parts of the book of Job and by specifying God's attributes and characteristics.
5. Elihu, therefore, argues for a new perception of God within the book of Job:
   - 5.1 God educates humankind by means of dreams and suffering.
   - 5.2 God sends an angel as mediator between God and the suffering humankind for his redemption and restitution.
   - 5.3 God preserves and observes his right, justice, righteousness and judgement.
   - 5.4 God is transcendent and therefore differs from world and humankind.
   - 5.5 God has the power and might to create the world and humankind and therefore is introduced as mighty creator while humankind is qualified as finite and limited creature.
6. These five elaborated characteristics of God drawn by Elihu adapt those aspects that are crucial for theories on monotheism, namely by thinking of God as being transcendent, by marking the fundamental difference between God and world on the one hand and between God and humankind on the other hand, and by introducing the angel as Divine mediator to ensure the relationship between God and humankind.