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**A Critical Study on Aquinas` Doctrine of Analogy Regarding Divine
Attributes**

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Abstract

The Problem of Divine attributes that are common between God and His creatures is a common concern between theologians and philosophers. A problem that has led in one hand to agnosticism (about God) and in the other hand to anthropomorphism. There are many ways enable them to solve this problem: being meaningless, Negative theology, metaphor, Univocal, Equivocal and causal attributes. Analogy is the specific solution that Thomas Aquinas has put forward to deal with this problem. This solution goes beyond both Univocal and Equivocal ways and the basis of this solution is causality and likeness. The doctrine of analogy opened new ways for Christian philosophers and theologians to solve aforementioned problem and problem regarding some Christian concepts like trinity and incarnation. This paper deal with this problem and attempts to articulate the fundamental basis of doctrine of analogy, its dimensions, its functions, its divisions and its relation to Divine names. Then it will criticize the content and advantages of this theory by declaring its correct consequences and its weaknesses.

Keywords: Doctrine of Analogy, Aquinas, Divine Attributes, Univocally, Equivocally, Metaphor.

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Problem Statement

In the issue of divine attributes, the theologians are concerned not only with the attributes that reason comes to it alone, but also with the names that are expressed through holy texts and traditions; most of these attributes indicate the common aspects between God and creatures, in particular, such the anthropomorphic attributes as wisdom, mercy, witchcraft, hearing, and so on ... (the so-called similarities and so-called moral attributes of God), some of the attributes and predicates quoted may be returned in a virtual, metaphorical, and non-realistic sense (such as a rock that is a metaphor for solidity, or possessor a hand, which is a metaphor for power and interference and capture), but some others like goodness or wisdom cannot be considered as a metaphor so the question is : what is the justification or our license to use these attributes for God? does not the attribution of such attributes contradict God's excellence?

Method

The method used in this paper was rational descriptive method. The authors made attempt to base any description and analysis on logical, philosophical and semantic arguments.

Findings and Results

In the present study, the authors attempt to first highlight the strengths and positive points of Aquinas' doctrine of analogy. Then, the weakness of his doctrine will be examined. Attempts target to articulate the following: the impossibility of encompassing the divine essence (the importance of exaltedness and emphasis on God's transcendence), the negation of agnosticism and negative theology, the implication of the attributes of the creature and the effect on the attributes of the Creator and the cause, the importance of similarity and likeness in theology. Then, the weak points of this theory in speaking about God are explained as follows:

1. The implication between denying univocally and skepticism.
2. The fallacy of misunderstanding the concept by its instance
3. Rejecting a special meaning for denying the universal meaning.
4. Not to distinguish between philosophical truth and metaphorical one,
5. Getting out of the logical exclusivism,
6. Fallacy of conversion
7. Arbitrariness distinction between attributes,

It is astonishing that Thomas and the Church, in the words of the Father and the Child, used in the case of God and Christ, in the same meaning of father and child, required the production and birth of a distinctly reducible on the reproductive system and the like, not in the sense of causation and Dependence or care? And it is not clear what is the difference between the meaning of fatherhood and childhood, for example, in the description of the rock that Thomas says should be metaphorical? It is interesting that in the other cases in the Baptist, which others are called the children of God as a piety, they have done the same thing.

Conclusion: Analogy was developed as a theory of speaking about God's attributes and rational explanation of the common features between God and man without the resort to univocal or equivocal names by Thomas Aquinas. He and his followers elaborated on the types of the Enlightenment, and among his goals was also the explanation of the Trinity. In this article, while expressing the meaning of theology, its foundations and its types and its application to explain divine attributes, eight critiques were also presented, which also contained a response to Thomas's objections on the theory of univocally names.

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