

## IMMANUEL KANT: THE ACME OF ENLIGHTENMENT PHILOSOPHY

- 1] God's *existence* can't be proved. (Here he contradicts Aquinas.)
  
- 2] God's *nature* can't be known. (We can know only (i) appearances, and God has no "appearance";  
(ii) the moral law within us.
  
- 3] All we can say about God is that God is that power which ensures the immortality that moral agents need if their morally correct conduct is to issue in the ultimate happiness it should issue in. (In this life much of our moral conduct reduces our happiness.)
  
- 4] The will is non-corrupt. (the early Kant)  
The will has an element of corruption in it. (the later Kant)

However

- (i) there is no original sin (this would entail the bondage of the will and thereby deny that humans are autonomous moral agents.)
  - (ii) there is no forgiveness (this would reduce the moral tension and provide a shortcut to human happiness.)
  - (iii) the will never loses entirely its capacity to obey the moral law.
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- 5] "Radical evil" is more evil than expected or explicable but not sheer evil, evil for the sake of evil, the pleasure of evil, perverse delight in wickedness.
  
  - 6] The moral law isn't based on God's will (which we can't know in any case) but on autonomous reason.
  
  - 7] Jesus Christ is moral exemplar and therefore encourager.