

The Fountains of Argument in this Question.

THe Arguments by which this Question is disputed, are drawn from four Fountaines. 1. From Authorities. 2. From the Inconveniences consequent to either opinion. 3. From the Attributes of God. 4. From natural Reason.

The Authorities are of two sorts, Divine and Humane. Divine are those which are taken from the holy Scriptures. Humane also are of two sorts, one, the Authorities of those men that are generally esteemed to have been learned, especially in this Question, as the Fathers, Schoolmen, and old Philosophers: the other, are the Vulgar and most commonly received opinions in the world.

His Reasons and places of Scripture I will answer the best I am able; but his humane Authorities I shall admit and receive, as farre as to Scripture and Reason they be consonant, and no further.

And for the Arguments derived from the Attributes of God, so farre forth as those Attributes are argumentative, that is, so farre forth as their significations be conceivable, I admit them for Arguments; but where they are given for honour onely, and signifie nothing but an intention and endeavour to praise and magnifie as much as we can Almighty God, there I hold them not for Arguments, but for Oblations; not for the language, but (as the Scripture calls them) for the calves of our lips; which signifie not true nor false, or any opinion of our brain, but the reverence and devotion of our hearts: and therefore they are no sufficient premises to inferre Truth, or convince Falsehood.

not argumentative

The places of Scripture that make for me are these. First, Gen. 45. Joseph sayeth to his Brethren that had sold him, Be not grieved nor angry with your selves, that ye sold me hither: For God did send me before you to preserve life. And again verse 8. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God.

And concerning Pharaoh, God sayeth Exod. 7. 3. I will harden