

# 约翰·希克的“终极实体”设定和 宗教多元论的二级模式\*

John Hick's Postulation of "the Real" and the  
Bi-Level Mode of Religious Pluralism

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## [英文提要]

The Trinity is central to Christian theology and embodies the uniqueness and essence of the Christian faith. The doctrine has a rich history of development. From the notion of *Do Deo Uno* in national theology to *Do Deo Trino* theology, its ontological definition of God was finally canonized in the Nicean Creed, drawing from the metaphysical notions of *ousia* and *hypostasis* in Greek philosophy, which were then translated into Latin term *substantia* and further clarified by the concept of *persona* as used by the church. As the doctrine grew from Greek ontological metaphysics through exclusivistic, latinized Christian symbolism, the doctrine of the Trinity contributed ideas significant to religious pluralism which

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\* 本文曾发表于本刊第九辑，但由于匿名评审过程中的差错，将文章作者误署为王志成。后经浙江大学王志成教授指正以及多方查找，始知真正的作者为香港中文大学博士候选人王涛。为此，我们根据作者的要求重发此文，并表示歉意。——编者

was gaining ascendancy.

It became clear that religious entity and metaphysical entity were not mutually exchangeable. Religious entity is grounded in faith—a secondary level response to religion. Metaphysical entity, however, is characterized by its need to be constructed from a more basic notion of the essence of being. It is therefore ill suited to replace religious entity or to play a central role in any religious system. To confuse or combine the two would result precisely in religious exclusivism. So, in the postulation of theory, structural superposition of the apriority of metaphysics and the priority of religious revelation can serve as a common foundation of first level truths among religions in a pluralistic context, from which a bi-level mode can be built in other religious systems to provide a rational starting point for inner-religious dialogue.

In the history of Christian thought, attempts has been made to address the essence of religion inductively within national theology by deism and also within liberal theology, whose leading figure was Schleiermacher. Deism posited general rationality as the immanent and self-evident Revelation, the basis of so-called meta-religion or meta-theology. Liberal theology, unlike deistic theory, emphasized relational faith instead of propositional faith. Nevertheless, it borrowed from anthropology “the sense and emotion of absolute dependence” to describe the foundation of relationship between the believer and the divine. As a result, both deism and liberal theology were anthropocentric in their ontology and metaphysical framework.

In his religious pluralism, John Hick postulated the metaphysical entity of the Real and constructed a bi-level mode of

ultimate/religious entity ( the Real ). By avoiding the anthropocentrism of deism and liberal theology, Hick's postulation insured the priority of religious Revelation and guaranteed the proclamation of truth in different religious systems, successfully integrating theology and religious philosophy. But with the Real/ultimate entity being a metaphysical postulation, Hick's system could not provide a criterion for evaluating truth across religions. So, he adopted salvation structure in religious practice as a common criterion: apart from the distinctive core of each religion, salvation / liberation provided the context wherein the individual would turn from self-centeredness to other /Other-centeredness. According to Hick's religious pluralism, the resulting ethical consensus became the ultimate safeguard for religious truth within the context of human culture. Herein lies the cultural logic and status quo of modern inter-religious dialogue.

Furthermore, the reconstruction of religious consciousness after Vatican II and the enactment of the Declaration toward A Global Ethic help explain the motivation and context for inner-religious dialogue within modern culture. Finally, given the dualistic tension, between peace and truth among religions, inter-religious dialogue serves the ultimate purpose of education and synthesis of truth structures within religious systems.

## 基督教个案考察

### ——“三位一体”的基督教信仰实体之生成进路

基督教是从犹太教脱胎而来的独特的一神信仰，两大宗教以