

## 理性时代的上帝观

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### [英文提要]

This paper reviews the development of the concept of God since the Renaissance and the Protestant Reformation in the West. It has often been said that the Modern Age is the Age of Reason while the Middle Ages is the Age of Faith, and that the subsequent progress of the Modern Age versus the Middle Ages is realized as faith is replaced by reason. God is in eclipse while reason is at the helm. However, reason and faith are not necessarily contradictory.

Reason can be differentiated into teleological reason and instrumental reason, communicative reason and objectifying reason. Teleological reason and communicative reason have encouraged man's pursuit of the purpose of history, and the meaning and value of life, all of which lead to an understanding of God. However, an alienation of reason has occurred in recent time: objectifying reason has suppressed communicative reason while instrumental reason has negated teleological reason. It is this alienated reason that contradicts faith. Therefore, to resurrect the eclipsed God, modern theologians had to devote themselves to the promotion of theological reason and communicative reason. From

the Judaic theologian Martin Buber (1878—1965) to Protestant theologians Karl Barth (1886—1968), Emil Brunner (1889—1966), and Paul Tillich (1886—1965), to the Catholic Pope, John Paul II, they all championed the need for intersubjective and intercultural dialogue. It is their hope that through apprehending the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, modern man could hearken to the call of God and follow His will.

学术界常把近代 (modern time) 称为理性的时代, 这是相对于中世纪的信仰的时代而言的。对于什么是当代 (contemporary time) 的基本特征, 学术界则不像对近代那样具有较为统一的想法。有人称它为“非理性的时代”, 有人称它为“分析的时代”。虽然在 19 世纪末和 20 世纪上半叶的哲学界一度兴盛过非理性主义的哲学, 语言分析的哲学, 并影响到神学界, 但是从整体来看, 它们只是纷繁多样的思想潮流中的部分思想潮流, 以它们界定当代的性质未免有以偏概全之嫌。我认为近代的理性精神继续延伸到当代, 而当代的哲学家和神学家对理性作了更加深刻的反思, 他们区分对象化的理性和交流的理性, 区分工具理性和目的理性, 不简单地吧理性与信仰对立起来。本文试沿着理性这条线索对从近代到当代的基督教的上帝观作一概述。

## 一、理性时代的起源

近代是一个崇尚理性的时代, 是一个文化多元和政治民主的时代, 是一个现世取向的时代。近代人喜爱独立思考和富有批判精神, 向权威和传统挑战, 反对专制主义和集权主义, 争取民主, 要求思想、言论和行动的自自由。近代人努力创造物质的财富, 建