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978-1-107-00934-9 - Kant's Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason: A Commentary

James J. Dicenso

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Kant's *Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason*

A Commentary

Immanuel Kant's *Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason* is one of the great modern examinations of religion's meaning, function, and impact on human affairs. In this volume, the first complete English-language commentary on the work, James J. DiCenso explains the historical context in which the book appeared, including the importance of Kant's conflict with state censorship. He shows how *Religion* addresses crucial Kantian themes, such as the relationship between freedom and morality, the human propensity to evil, the status of historical traditions in relation to ethical principles, and the interface between individual ethics and social institutions. The major arguments are clearly and precisely explained, and the themes are highlighted and located within Kant's mature critical philosophy, especially his ethics. DiCenso's commentary will be valuable to all who are interested in the continuing relevance of religion for contemporary inquiries into ethics, public institutions, and religious traditions.

JAMES J. DICENSO is Professor in the Philosophy of Religion at the University of Toronto. He is the author of *Kant, Religion, and Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 2011); *The Other Freud: Religion, Culture and Psychoanalysis* (1999); and *Hermeneutics and the Disclosure of Truth* (1990) and has published several scholarly articles in international journals.

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Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107009349

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First published 2012

Printed in the United States of America

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data

DiCenso, James, 1957–

Kant's Religion within the boundaries of mere reason : a commentary / James J. DiCenso.
p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-00934-9 (hardback)

1. Kant, Immanuel, 1724–1804. Religion innerhalb der Grenzen der blossen Vernunft.

2. Religion – Philosophy. 3. Good and evil. 4. Religion. I. Title.

B2792.D53 2012

210–dc23 2012002692

ISBN 978-1-107-00934-9 Hardback

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Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Hilary Gaskin of Cambridge University Press, who first suggested that I develop a full commentary on Kant's *Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason*. Her expert guidance throughout the project has been invaluable. This book has also benefited from the input of a number of students, colleagues, and friends. The participants in my seminar on Kant's ethics and theory of religion over several years have helped to clarify my understanding of a number of central themes. Special thanks are owed to Babak Bakhtiarynia and Paul York, each of whom also read the manuscript and offered many incisive and helpful suggestions. Professor Gordon E. Michalson, Jr., provided a detailed report on the manuscript, and I am deeply grateful for his trenchant comments and overall support for this project. As always, my discussions with Stanley Fefferman were a source of insight and inspiration. Finally, thanks are due to my wife Eleanor, whose suggestions and encouragement have helped me improve the final version in numerous ways.

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Abbreviations

Kant’s works are cited within the text by volume number and page following the German Academy edition. The pagination corresponding to these editions is given in the margins of the English translations published by Cambridge University Press. The *Critique of Pure Reason* is cited according to the first edition of 1781 (A) or second edition of 1787 (B) pagination. *Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason* is cited simply by its volume number (VI) and page number.

Otherwise the following abbreviations are used:

AN	<i>Anthropology from a Pragmatic Point of View</i>
CB	“Conjectural Beginning of Human History”
CF	<i>The Conflict of the Faculties</i>
CJ	<i>Critique of the Power of Judgment</i>
CPrR	<i>Critique of Practical Reason</i>
E	“An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?”
GR	<i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i>
IH	“Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Aim”
L	<i>Lectures on Logic</i>
LM	<i>Lectures on Metaphysics</i>
MM	<i>The Metaphysics of Morals</i>
MT	“On the miscarriage of all philosophical trials in theodicy”
OT	“What does it mean to orient oneself in thinking?”
TP	“On the common saying: That may be correct in theory, but it is of no use in practice”

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