



Belief in the existence of God; self-evident or basic?

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Abstract: Some Islamic thinkers have contended that the belief in the existence of God is self-evident by presenting arguments such as the argument of Fitrah, the truthful argument, and the argument of religious experience. The purpose of this research that has been done by theoretical-library and analytical-critical methods, is a critical study of the claimed self-evidence in the three mentioned arguments. The importance of paying attention to the distinction between the self-evidence and the basis of a belief and understanding their difference from each other can also be extended to propositions such as "God exists" and will help us to examine the claim of the self-evidence of the existence of God. The present article seeks to state that knowing the basis of belief in the existence of God does not mean that it is self-evident. Thus, by conceptual analysis of each of the contents of this proposition and also by examining the sources of knowledge, the relation of such belief with the meaning of self-evidence will be explained and the result is that none of these arguments have the power to prove the self-evidence of God; Ultimately, what these three types of arguments prove is to justify the claim that belief in God is basic, and to speak of the self-evidence of such a belief in the above arguments is unreasonable.

Keywords: The Existence of God, self-evidence, Basic Belief, *Fitrah*, Truthful argument, Religious Experience.

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