

# THE DEVELOPING IMAGE OF THE DIVINE: A PHILOSOPHICAL REFLECTION ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN 'WILL' AND 'LOVE' FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF F.W.J. SCHELLING'S LATER PHILOSOPHY

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## Abstract

The most significant call of the human being is for ceaseless effort. Rilke's<sup>1</sup> poetry in the form of poetic language is quite appropriate to support the author's vital aim in encouraging one's own self and the fellow human beings for constant unceasing effort. Schelling's Later Thoughts are influenced by mystics and theologians such as Meister Eckhart, Jacob Boehme, Franz von Baader and Oetinger. The call of the human being is to make ceaseless effort in developing the image of the Divine in oneself by transcending 'will' to 'love'. According to Schelling, this can only be accomplished in inwardness. Inwardness is the existential dialogue between 'will' and 'reason' in the atmosphere of love. The criterion of the inner sacred dialogue is love. It is the process of a harmonic integration, and balanceable transformation of the contradictory nature of the heart and the head, the feeling-self and the thinking-self.

Keywords: Image of the Divine, Human being, 'will', 'love', reason, ceaseless effort, two sides of the same coin, contradictory and complementarity, transcendence, immanence, transformation.

## Clarification of the term used

Divine and God... The author uses the 'Divine' instead of 'God' though the quotations cited use, 'God' instead of 'Divine'. 'Divine' and the 'Image of the Divine'. Though quotations of poetic language, use 'God' directly, here 'the image of the Divine' is used instead of 'Divine' or 'God'.

## INTRODUCTION

The human being is not only a constitution of immanence but also of transcendence. The immanent nature is dominant in the human being since he has a beginning and an end. However, at a deeper level, the human being has the seed of transcendent nature. That is, he is not only a physical body but also has a soul: psyche, mind, and individual selfhood. In other words, the human being is the developing transcendent

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