

**TITLE:** Religion in the Concept of David Hume

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**ABSTRACT:**

The presented dissertation deals with analysis of religious thought of the prominent figure of the British empirical philosophy in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, David Hume, who moves empirical tradition of European thought to consistent anti-metaphysical generalizations by his emphasis on sensory evidence and facts. Against the background of Lock's epistemological model he rehabilitates experimental basis of human thought against contemporary rationalism and draws baleful consequences for non-empirical rationality. Into which he situates the compromising metaphysical contents: causality, substance, necessary determination, casual proof of God's existence, etc., he negates them and expels them beyond meaningful knowledge. Theology and articles of faith lose, in Hume's world of ideas, relevance. In this respect, his examination of history of religion and his dialogues about religion are more devastating criticism than impartial religionistic study. With levity of the disinterested Hume discusses faith without faith and becomes noticeable intellectual inspirator of the positivist and objectivist thinking about religion. This non-theistic position, which Hume successfully presents in the history of Western philosophical self-reflection, did not lose an appeal and is still unreflectively accepted in abundance. Inadequate reflection of David Hume in contemporary Czech thinking, apart from rare achievements oriented only on his theory of knowledge after censure, is evident. The aim of the author of this dissertation is to contribute to the modest number of professional articles and studies devoted to Hume's intellectual heritage of this country. The intention is to show his considerable influence on philosophy of religion in the context of his critique of causality and substanciality that laid the foundations of Modern metaphysical skepticism and positivism. The desired conclusion covers also critical evaluation of his assumptions and implications of his philosophy for metaphysics and religion.

**KEYWORDS:**

Empiricism, Faith, Sense, Experience, Questioning, Secret.