

Martin Buber on Jean Paul Sartre

Sartre maintains that since God infinitely transcends the creature, the creature is as thoroughly objectified as a stick or a stone. Even a "look" from God would be enough to "unperson" the human and render us sub-human. Therefore God has to be rejected if humankind is to *be*. Any "other" shrivels me. God is the "quintessence" of the other.

Buber maintains

67. [1] God is not the quintessence of the other "but rather its absoluteness." *Eclipse of God*,

rather [2] This absoluteness is not the relation of subject (Subject) over against object, "but

the reciprocal relation of I and Thou." *Eclipse*, 68 God never becomes an object for us.

(he doesn't permit us this); neither do we ever become objects to God (he refuses this.)

between [3] Sartre "holds the subject-object relation to be the primary and exclusive relation

beings. He does not see the original and decisive relation between I and Thou, compared with which the subject-object relation is only a classifying elaboration."

Eclipse, 69