

Various theories have been advanced as to the form which this feeling of responsibility actually takes, and it is probable that these different theories are all more or less correct if we consider the enormous varieties in human nature and character.

We need mention here only a few of the different views which have been taken of the nature of moral responsibility. The simplest and probably the oldest is the conception of a higher Power, which is conceived by analogy with our earliest experiences as that of more exalted persons, or as that of a single and Highest Person, the Deity. This is probably also, even at the present day, and in spite of much criticism, still the most popular and widespread view as to the supreme seat of Authority.

Various doubts, raised both on the ground of intellectual and moral difficulties and dilemmas, have ever since the beginning of philosophy tended to loosen the belief in this first, simplest, and most natural theory of the World and Life; replacing the theistic doctrine by a variety of different theories such as fatalism, Pantheism, or a universal cosmic order; and these different theories may be either spiritualistic or materialistic. Comparatively recent is what has been termed "Agnosticism," a theory which denies all possibility of explaining in any way the origin and nature of the ultimate order of things, and *a fortiori*, also of the moral sentiment.

It is, however, interesting and significant to note that some of the most staunch upholders of the Agnostic position are quite as firm in maintaining the existence of a moral law or order, which they consider