

# The Ontological Question

## The Fundamental Paradox Of Reason And Reality

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August 30, 2007

The question of the unconditional by man presupposes the presence of the unconditional as man.

How does the unconditional "stand out from" (Latin *exsistere*, English exist and existence) itself as the conditioned? How does that which stands out from itself become estranged from itself?

That the unconditioned stands out from itself and is estranged from itself as the conditioned and also, on its own initiative (only), can reunite with itself as the conditioned beyond conditions and estrangement is the fundamental paradox (*para* + *docta*, literally, "beside doctrine," surprising, unexpected) of reason and reality.



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