

## **The Theocene: God-Positing Consciousness in Schelling's Positive Philosophy**

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In this paper, I reconstruct Schelling's proof of God's existence in his 1842 Berlin lectures. Against readers who interpret Schelling's proof as an abductive argument, I show that Schelling's argument is a valid deductive argument, which aims to show that without God the world, and scientific cognition of the world, would be impossible. Given this elucidation of Schelling's positive philosophy, I suggest that the development of the age of the *Anthropos* from myth to religion and philosophy is not just a *natural* development, but marks a distinct metaphysical and theological epoch—the *καῖρός* of the θεός—the *Theocene*. I argue that Schelling's positive philosophy can succeed, but only on the condition that he endorse the truth of contradiction or the ineffability of God.