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'GREGORY OF NYSSA'S NON-REDUCTIVE IMMATERIALISM'

Can God create what is unlike God? If yes, causation is not what we take it to be. If not, the world is not what we take it to be. Or is it? Gregory of Nyssa argues that both causation and the world are what we take them to be, making him an interesting and forward thinking player in this debate. The Church Fathers held that God created the world from nothing, by an act of will, at a particular time. But providing a metaphysical account for this act of creation was not without difficulties. How can an *immaterial* entity be the cause of the *material* world? Isn't this a violation of the causal principle that "like causes like"? Gregory of Nyssa endorses the "like causes like" principle, and is thus committed to the view that if God is immaterial, what he causes to come into existence will be immaterial, too. Some have suggested that therefore Gregory holds a version of idealism. The evidence in this direction, however, is not compelling. Gregory believes that God creates immaterial qualities. The world, however, *does not reduce* to these immaterial qualities. Material bodies *supervene* on the immaterial qualities created by God. Gregory's view is best described as *non-reductive immaterialism*.