

# Charles Taylor's Historical Argument of Christian Morality\*

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Charles Taylor's *Sources of the Self*<sup>1</sup> (hereafter cited parenthetically as *SS*) can be divided into two sections. Part I is Taylor's ontological account of moral agency. Part II-V is Taylor's historical retrieval of the development of modern moral identity. This paper explores one of the main arguments in Taylor's historical retrieval: the Christian theistic tradition can offer a better affirmation of humanity to the moderns than secular humanism (*SS*, 515).

Though there are many papers exploring Taylor's

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\* I would like to thank Kwan Kai Man, Lai Pan Chiu and Nok Wing Kai for their opinion and their comments on the draft of this article.

1 Charles Taylor, *Sources of the Self: The Making of the Modern Identity* (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 1989). Other important works by Taylor include: *Human Agency and Language: Philosophical Papers 1* (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1985); *Philosophy and the Human Sciences: Philosophical Papers 2* (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1985); *The Ethics of Authenticity* (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 1992); *A Catholic Modernity?* ed. James L. Heft (New York: OUP, 1999); *Varieties of Religion Today: William James Revisited* (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 2002); *A Secular Age* (Cambridge: Belnap Press of Harvard Univ. Press, 2007).