

EDIT ANNA LUKACS

## Existentialist Ontology in Henry of Langenstein

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### *Abstract*

*In the Middle Ages, theologians frequently addressed the question whether simple non-existence is preferable to the eternal misery of the wicked. In the 1390s, Henry of Langenstein spoke repeatedly on the issue, but only in a version framed as a disputed question did he adopt an ontological approach. In Langenstein's opinion, not only do men remain, in the image of their creator, eternally reasonable and free, but it is also for this very same – existentialist – reason that they always have to opt for their existence. With this statement, Langenstein's hell becomes a particular place.*

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