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The relationship between ethics and the idea of God in Husserl and Levinas

The purpose of my talk is to unveil a specific understanding of God which one can find in major figures of phenomenology such as Husserl and Levinas, and that manifests itself already in Kant's philosophy. This understanding is characterized by two essential features: first of all it is non-ontological, since the question of being of God or of its existence is not taken into consideration – secondly, it considers God from an ethical point of view, i.e. it situates the authentic meaning of God in the ethical realm.

Thus, the ethical meaning of God is apparent in Husserl's series of articles "On the renewal". Husserl defines the idea of God as "*the absolute limit*, the pole which extends itself beyond every finitude, towards which every human effort is directed" (Hua XXVII, 33-34). This limit is "the authentic and true I (...) that every ethical human being bears in himself, towards which he aspires and which he loves infinitely and of which he knows himself infinitely distant" (Hua XXVII, 34). Levinas on the other hand describes God in *Totality and Infinity* as a trace in the face of the Other which makes the Other holy, whom I cannot kill and who already judges me.

The aim of my talk will be to investigate why these authors introduce the idea of God in their ethical thinking and what does God essentially add to ethics from their phenomenological point of view.