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There are many ways in which God can be seen. In the early ages God can be seen in the form of a light, a father figure, or even a burning bush. In my discussion, I will be talking about God in the form of “The Rock”. First thing that comes to mind in the present day when people hear “The Rock” is a huge extremely masculine wrestler who literally almost looks like a rock. This is not the kind of “Rock” I am talking about. In the Bible, God is usually called the Rock by many prophets namely:

**From the song of Moses:**

**The Rock, his work is perfect,  
   and all his ways are just.  
A faithful God, without deceit,  
   just and upright is he; (Deuteronomy 32:4)**

For Moses, the portrayal of God is a rock. Perhaps during that time during the freedom of the Israelites God was their whole basis and foundation of freedom. A sturdy rock, firm against the continuous pounding of the waves, this is what God is to them. In addition His laws were given to Moses in the form of two slabs carved in stone; a foundation, the absolute law of the early Israelites at that time.

Another good example is from I Corinthians 10:4 wherein God was portrayed as a spiritual rock which the people drank from and followed them wherever they went.

**“…and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. “(Corinthians 10:4)**

An interpretation of God as a rock meant that he was consistent over time that he treated his people the same way whether they were good or bad. He also accompanied the Israelites in their journey through the wilderness, guiding and supporting them as the people tried to find their way.

The examples above present a cataphatic way of talking about God, more specifically in the teachings of St. Augustine. In his teachings, he talks about God as the object of human yearning. A big explanation for this is that humans seek and lean on God at the same time yearn to explore the wonders of the world. In relation to the examples that I’ve presented, the Israelites during those times have leaned towards God as a foundation of their way of living and growth, that without God the rock and the commandments they would not be guided, lost and will be lead to sin. The same applies to the next example for they depend on the nurture of God as He shadows them through the forest, nourishing them spiritually with the water provided by the spiritual rock. It can be seen that it was useful for the people during that time with the type of living the people had. They were people who were seeking guidance and enlightenment. The laws that God gave provided them a guideline to follow at the same time moving towards the path of morality.

Calling God the Rock has certain weaknesses shown in society which can be reflected apophatically by Albert Camus wherein he describes God as someone who is not an abettor (one who helps or encourages) of suffering. As described above, if God is the rock, a question that would pose as a problem would be why would there be suffering and pain in the world if He, a God, is represented as a rock, a foundation and guide to the people, the perfect God. People who support Camus’ belief would ask the questions, “how could God let this happen?” and “it’s not fair that God has let things happen.” Indeed he is the type of God who promotes morality with the laws given to Moses but since there is something morally problematic about having a morally perfect God allowing the existence of evil and suffering to happen. They reject the belief of God as being morally perfect. They reject the idea of him as being the rock and foundation. It is the choice of us humans, because of free will that allows evil to happen, not god. Another problem that could be seen is the term rock could only synonymous to other names of god which is father, *Abba*, son and the like. Although the term rock is not gender sensitive, feminists still see this as a masculine name since there are no feminine titles in the scriptures.

At present time, God as the rock could still be used in today’s seminars, homilies and recollections which don’t limit just the poor but even those who live in the high end of society. The status of the poor can be more or less similar to the Israelites at the time of their release from Egypt, they were lost, desperate and in need of a leader. Their situation at the present time lacks a moral foundation. In seminars for the poor one must emphasize on having a good foundation. On the other hand, those living in the higher end of the social spectrum seemed to have been blinded by power, wealth, and sin. The problem of the Philippines right now is that people seem to lack a good foundation of morality. The poor are desperate and result in cheating, stealing, rape and the like, the same goes with the wealthy who feed off from their own just to gain more power. With moral foundations taught by the church, isolating the root of the problem, I believe that the Philippines would have a chance at improving not just its status but promoting a peaceful and moral environment.