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The attitude of amoral self-commitment, which in the current discussion is attributed solely to Islam, must be put into a larger context. In the form of political existentialism, this recent cause of disconcertment and helplessness is part of our own culture, a part which can look back on a two hundred-year tradition. Michael Großheim describes the philosophical roots of this «eerie, sinister, frightening world of absolute unselfishness» (Hannah Arendt) by analyzing texts and ideas of Friedrich Schlegel's concept of «self-destruction,» Hegel's thoughts on the «abstraction from oneself» and Gudrun Ensslin's «holy self-fulfillment.»