

Does God Exist?

Understanding arguments for the existence of
God

HZT4U1

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The Ontological Argument for the existence of God

Ontological :

The Ontological Argument for the existence of God

Ontological : study of 'being,' existence

The Ontological Argument for the existence of God

A priori :

The Ontological Argument for the existence of God

A priori : the truth of a thing can be known without me having actually experienced it or observed it

Example:

The Ontological Argument

(In Review)

St. Anselm (1033-1109 C.E.)



The Ontological Argument

P1. God is greater than anything (God is PERFECT)

P2. God is either just in your mind OR God is a part of reality

P3. It's 'greater' to exist in reality rather than just in the mind (something can't be perfect if it doesn't exist) - which means that...



The Ontological Argument



**GOD must be
REAL!**
(otherwise, God just
wouldn't be perfect)

The cosmological argument for God

The cosmological argument for God

Cosmological : Philosophical study of the universe, including its origins, laws, and elements

The cosmological argument for God

Cause and Effect: Whatever exists has to come from something else (a prime mover)



The cosmological argument for God

Cause and Effect: Whatever exists has to come from something else (a prime mover)

A Posteriori

The cosmological argument for God

Cause and Effect: Whatever exists has to come from something else (a prime mover)

A Posteriori : Truth can be understood ONLY through observation (*after the fact*)

i.e., experienced through the senses (sight, sound, touch, etc.)

The cosmological argument for God

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274 C.E.)



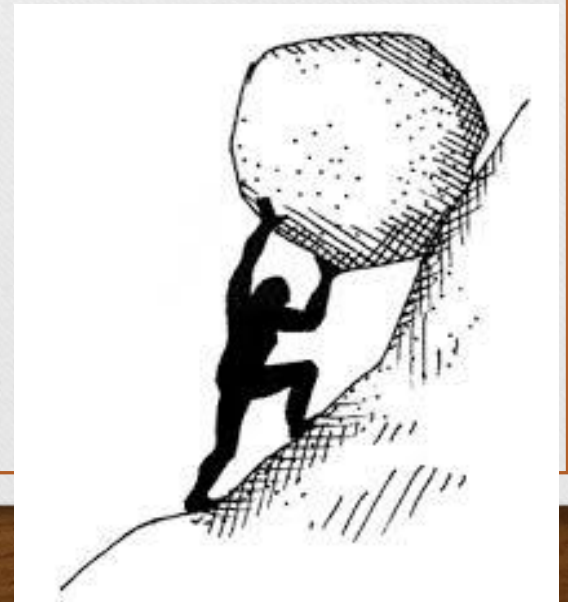
The cosmological argument for God

Aquinas' FIVE philosophical proofs for the existence of God

The cosmological argument for God

Aquinas' FIVE philosophical proofs for the existence of God

P1. All things move (we can see and feel this),
but something has to set them in motion
GOD is the UNMOVED MOVER



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P2. Like all things are moved, everything that exists has cause (like everyone has parents)

GOD is the FIRST CAUSE that put the universe in motion



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P3. Everything's existence depends (or is *contingent*) on something else...

GOD is the NECESSARY thing that everything else is contingent on

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Aquinas' FIVE philosophical proofs for the existence of God

P4. We all have standards for what's good (like truth, morality, etc.), so...

GOD is the PERFECT being who sets the standard for everyone else (otherwise, we wouldn't know what 'good' is supposed to look like)



The cosmological argument for God

Aquinas' FIVE philosophical proofs for the existence of God

P5. Everything is perfectly designed for their habitat (e.g., a bird's wing helps it to fly, our eyes provide us sight), so...

GOD is the **DESIGNER** that put it all together



The cosmological argument for God

Summary of Aquinas' 5 proofs

God is :

P1. The **Unmoved Mover**

P2. The **First Cause**

P3. The **Necessary thing** everything else depends on

P4. The **Standard** by which we know what's good

P5. The **Designer**

Kalam cosmological argument for God

‘Ilm al-Kalam
“science of discourse”

Kalam cosmological argument for God

William Lane Craig (*20th century American philosopher*): “There can be NO infinities”



Kalam cosmological argument for God

William Lane Craig (*20th century American philosopher*): “There can be NO infinities”

Basically, there has to be a beginning (and possibly an end) to all things

Kalam cosmological argument for God

P1. Whatever exists has a cause

Kalam cosmological argument for God

P1. Whatever exists has a cause

P2. The universe began to exist, therefore...



Kalam cosmological argument for God

P1. Whatever exists has a cause

P2. The universe began to exist, therefore...

P3. Something caused the universe to begin (An UNCAUSED CREATOR WHO – unlike the universe – is timeless, all-powerful, and without beginning)



Kalam cosmological argument for God

Kalam cosmological argument for God

Cosmological Constant

Kalam cosmological argument for God

William Lane Craig on the absence of
infinities

The teleological argument (Intelligent design)

The 'Order' that we see in nature can't
just be accidental

The teleological argument (Intelligent design)

Anthropic principle: