

The Cosmological Argument

The Argument from Motion

1. It is evident to our senses that things are moving.
2. Whatever is moved by something else.
3. Everything that is in motion must have been set in motion by something which itself is moving.
4. There must be a primary mover otherwise there would be no motion.



Thomas Aquinas
1225-1274

The Argument from Causation

1. It is evident that some things are caused
2. Things which are caused must be caused by something else as things cannot cause themselves
3. There cannot be an infinite regress
4. Therefore, there must have been a first cause which cannot itself have been caused (an uncaused cause)



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Infinite Regress

- A sequence of justifications that never come to an end.
- Therefore, there is no justification.

Principle of Sufficient Reason

- Everything that exists must have a reason or cause

The Problem of Infinity

- Is it possible to cross infinity?

Objections

- Hume & Russell - We cannot derive how the universe came about from our experience of the world.
- The Fallacy of Composition - The constitutive parts may not have the same properties as the whole
- The universe doesn't require an explanation
- A primary mover does not necessarily mean a personal God.