

The Moral Argument for the Existence of God

Aquinas

There are gradations of 'good, true and noble'

There must be a being that has these qualities to a maximum extent

There must be a source if this knowledge



1225-1274

The Theoretical Moral Argument

1. There is an objective moral reality
2. The existence of God provides the best explanation for there being an objective moral reality
3. Therefore, God probably exists

Divine Command Theory

Morality is determined by what God commands

Being moral requires us to obey these commands

The Euthyphro Dilemma

Does God command things because they are good

Or

Are things good because God commands them

Robert Merrihew Adams

Obligations are grounded in social requirements

Some social obligations are not moral in nature and some social obligations are morally wrong

The nature of our social relationship to God explains the nature of morality



1937 -

Response to the Euthyphro Dilemma

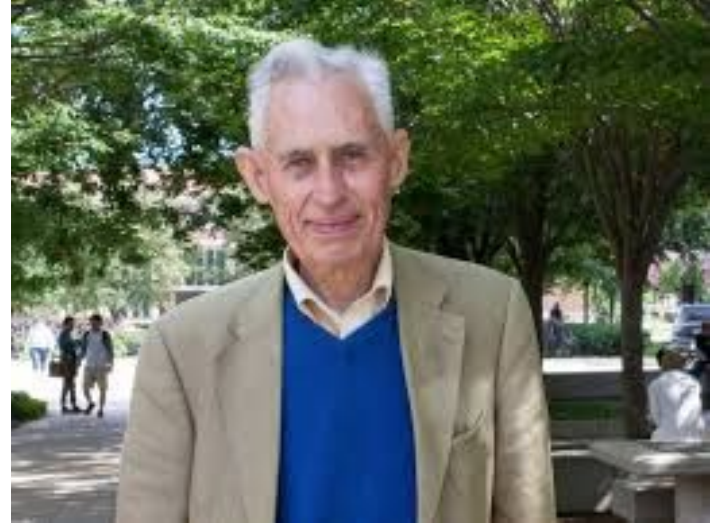
God's nature is essentially good and therefore his commands are aimed at the good.

Arguments from Moral Knowledge

Moral truths are either contingent or necessary

Contingent truth - It is wrong to drop an atomic bomb on Hiroshima

Necessary truth - It is wrong to intentionally kill an innocent person



Richard Swinburne
(1934 -)

There are moral facts and we are aware of them. This is surprising and requires explanation.

The Argument from Human Dignity

1. Human life has a special dignity
2. The best explanation for human dignity is that humans are created in the image of God
3. Therefore, there is probably a God