

Proofs for God

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Thomas Aquinas' 5 Proofs for God:

1 - FIRST MOVER: Our senses prove that some things are in motion. 2 - Things move when potential motion becomes actual motion. 3 - Only an actual motion can convert a potential motion into an actual motion. 4- Nothing can be at once in both actuality and potentiality in the same respect 5 - Therefore nothing can move itself 6 - Therefore each thing in motion is moved by something else 7 - The sequence of motion cannot go on forever. 8 - Therefore there must be something that started the movement that was not moved itself. Called - "The Unmoved Mover."

2 - FIRST CAUSE: Based on Aristotle's "Efficient Cause" Example: We know a table is a table because it exhibits traits inherent in being a table. We can look at it and say, "That is a table!" The table was created by a person who either had a blueprint in his head or on a piece of paper showing him what a table looked like. This "blueprint" (either formal or informal) is the "Efficient Cause." The artisan who created the table was not the efficient cause, he just showed his knowledge of the "blueprint" by creating the table. The "blueprint" is the efficient cause. These "blueprints" or Efficient Causes could not go back forever in time. There must have been someone/something that created the "causes/blueprints" to begin with. That is God.

3 - NECESSARY BEING: Every contingent being at some time fails to exist. So if everything were contingent, then at some time there would have been nothing -- and so there would be nothing now -- which is clearly false. So not everything is contingent. So there is a necessary being. This is God.

4 - GREATEST BEING: Some things are greater than others. Whatever is great to any degree gets its greatness from that which is the greatest. Predications of degree require reference to the "uttermost" case (e.g., a thing is said to be hotter according as it more nearly resembles that which is hottest). So there is a greatest being, which is the source of all greatness. We have an understanding that something is good or bad. Where did the idea of degrees come from?

5 - INTELLIGENT DESIGNER: Many things in the world that lack intelligence act for an end. Whatever acts for an end must be directed by an intelligent being. So the world must have an intelligent designer. This is God.

C.S. Lewis:

My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I gotten this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust? If the whole show was bad and senseless from A to Z, so to speak, why did I, who was supposed to be part of the show, find myself in such violent reaction against it? A man feels wet when he falls into water, because man is not a water animal: a fish would not feel wet. Of course I could have given up my idea of justice by saying it was nothing but a private idea of my own. But if I did that, then my argument against God collapsed too — for the argument depended on saying that the world was really unjust, not simply that it did not happen to please my private fancies. Thus in the very act of trying to prove that God did not exist — in other words, that the whole of reality was senseless — I found I was forced to assume that one part of reality — namely my idea of justice — was full of sense. Consequently, atheism turns out to be too simple. If the whole universe has no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning: just as, if there were no light in the universe and therefore no creatures with eyes, we should never know it was dark. Dark would be without meaning.*

C. S. Lewis

"If there was a controlling power outside the universe, it could not show itself to us as one of the facts inside the universe -no more than the architect of a house could actually be a wall or staircase or fireplace in that house. The only way in which we could expect it to show itself would be inside us as an influence or a command trying to get us to behave in a certain way. And that's just what we do find inside us."

— C.S. Lewis

