

SOME GOD ARGUMENTS REFUTED

Argument: We have an innate desire for God.

Answer: Many disagree and why are most people not that interested in God? You have no right to say God lets terrible things happen when you only believe in him because you want him to exist. Even if that is part of the reason it is not good enough. The matter is too serious for that. If you see a miracle, an act that shows that God makes and controls nature by doing something that looks magical - eg making a brick talk to you, then you will not care unless you already want to believe in God. The desire argument is the true driving force behind the argument that miracles show God exists. Religion says a miracle is done to show God's love and that magic is different. But in fact both claim to change nature so essentially there is no difference. And religion loves unloving miracles and the loving ones are a matter of interpretation.

Argument: We experience God.

Answer: What God? Those who experience God communicating with them soon learn that they are imagining it. Nobody just an experience of God - they have an experience that God has revealed himself in a book or religion but all those accounts contradict each other.

Argument: Beauty shows us there is a God.

Answer: But God has no parts! If he can make beauty good for him but he cannot be beautiful. The beauty should be better than him!

Argument: If there is no God there is no morality - moral opinions yes but nothing you could call a moral fact.

Answer: A dying baby needs help because it is a baby that suffers and not because there is a God. If you had to think either of God or the baby then the truly human person will think only of the baby.

THE ONTOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

Attempts have been made to show that once you understand what God is you will see that he has to exist just as surely as once you understand that what an equilateral triangle is, you will see it must have three equal sides. Such attempts are doomed to failure. They seek to prove a God who is goodness itself literally. But good is abstract. It is not a thing. It is not a thing in the way $1+1=2$ is not a thing. If God is $1+1=2$ then he cannot exist. The idea of God is at best beyond our understanding and at worst contradictory. The latter is the correct assessment. Ontological arguments are based on human arrogance and on a sleight of hand. What we have said refutes them in all their forms.

THE PARADOX PROBLEM

Even if the proofs worked or were evidences for God rather than certainties, there is still the proof of suffering and the experience that we are not God to stand against them. This would be a paradox. We would have to conclude that there is something we cannot grasp that explains it. We need not assume that our reason is defective at this point. And we know that the proof of suffering and experience would be stronger than the other proofs for the other proofs are worked out like sums while suffering and experience prove themselves without working them out and are more direct. What is proven directly to my consciousness supersedes even what is proven by reason in a more indirect fashion. Or what is direct supersedes what is indirect and harder to prove. To ignore the evidence of human suffering and prefer to assume there is some explanation when you don't have one speaks of a certain hardness in your heart.

CONCLUSION

There is no evidence that God exists. Therefore there is no obligation to believe in him whatever the Bible and the Church might say. Any harm done over the belief is evil because there is no evidence to support the belief. God or not, the opportunity arises to do good and he is irrelevant. We have to get on with it.

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